

Christopher to tour Mideast — Musa

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to tour the Middle East after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visits Washington in mid-November. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Tuesday, Mr. Musa also told reporters that he would travel to Israel Thursday for talks with Mr. Rabin on the stalled Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace process. Both Mr. Christopher and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat are to visit Cairo, Mr. Musa said. But the dates had not been fixed, he added. Mr. Musa told reporters Tuesday that during the trip to Israel he will deliver a letter from President Hosni Mubarak to Mr. Rabin and also will meet Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The visit follows Mr. Mubarak's talks Saturday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus. After that meeting, Mr. Mubarak expressed hope that a Syrian-Israeli agreement could be reached before the end of this year. Mr. Musa told reporters that he sees no reason for the Syrians and Israelis not to achieve progress, adding he sees signs to encourage optimism.

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Projections show Kollek defeated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, was headed for a resounding loss in his bid for a seventh term to young right-wing lawyer Ehud Olmert in Tuesday's municipal elections, viewed as a gauge of public support for the peace process. The exit poll broadcast by Israel Television showed Mr. Olmert, a 48-year-old former health minister, ahead 55 to 41 per cent. The television said the final exit polls were taken two hours before the polls closed at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) and no votes had been counted. Pollster Mina Tsemach said there had been a rush of voters in the final two hours but it was not expected to change the outcome. Mr. Kollek, 83, campaigned on his ability to keep the peace in a city that could be the tinder box of Jewish and Arab relations. But Mr. Olmert of the Likud Party successfully challenged Mr. Kollek by saying he was too old for the job. Amid the gloom at Kollek headquarters earlier when their own projections showed his defeat, the mayor for the past 28 years said: "I have nothing to say to anybody" and went home.

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Adnan Talhouni to head Queen's office

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday appointing Adnan Al Talhouni as director of Her Majesty Queen Noor's office as of Nov. 1. Before his new appointment, Mr. Talhouni was an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. He has served as ambassadors to several countries. The Cabinet meanwhile endorsed the appointment of Ahmad Adaleh as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Syria.

PLO to reopen Washington office

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton is expected to reauthorize the reopening of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) offices here, administration sources said Tuesday. "The legislation is before the president," a senior official told AFP. "We expect him to sign it very soon over the next week or so," said an official close to the legislation. The PLO office will not have diplomatic status, a State Department official said.

Israeli tank fires at guerrilla trails

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — An Israeli tank crew spotted guerrillas attempting to infiltrate into Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon Tuesday and blasted their trail with 20 cannon rounds. Several hours later, the body of a guerrilla was found lying near the village of Yater. The corpse was dragged into the Israeli-occupied zone, security sources said. Guerrillas unleashed a mortar barrage against an Israeli outpost in Sojod, on the edge of the central sector of the zone. No casualties were reported, the sources said. Israeli artillery struck back with barrage on Iqlim Al Tuffah. Skirmishes in South Lebanon have become almost a daily ritual since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace accord in Washington Sept. 13.

Fighting erupts in southern Sudan

KAMPALA (AFP) — Fresh fighting has erupted between government forces and John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels east of Kaya in southern Sudan, relief agencies told AFP Tuesday. "There is a new influx of refugees into Koboko district of northwestern Uganda in the past one week," Geir Andreassen of the international Federation of Red Cross Societies said. Mr. Andreassen said the number of refugees were expected in the coming weeks or so could swell to between 20,000 and 40,000. The refugees were quoted as saying that hundreds of wounded civilians were stranded on the eastern bank of the Nile following a sudden rise in the water level due to heavy rains in the area.

German minister briefs Saudis on EC plans

JEDDAH (AP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Tuesday that he has briefed Saudi officials on political and economic support the European Community (EC) plans to extend to the Palestinians after the landmark peace accord with Israel. Since his arrival Monday, Mr. Kinkel has met with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and a host of other officials. He told a news conference that he briefed them on what the EC foreign ministers would offer to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he meets with them in Brussels next week. Mr. Kinkel said the Saudi leaders assured him that "Saudi Arabia is urgently awaiting peace" and "urging implementation" of the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord. Mr. Kinkel's visit was the first in six years by Bonn's chief diplomat. It followed trips to Egypt and Syria in May. He leaves Jeddah Wednesday for Jordan.

Palestinians reject Gaza pullout plan, halt self-rule talks

Combined agency dispatches

TABA, Egypt — The Palestinians suspended autonomy negotiations with Israel here indefinitely Tuesday demanding a "general military withdrawal" from the occupied Gaza Strip and not simply redeployment.

But Israel's chief delegate Amnon Shahak urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to return to the negotiating table, saying "the plan is not sacrosanct."

Nabil Shaath, his PLO counterpart, announced: "We are suspending the negotiations to go back to our leadership and allow our Israeli counterparts to go back to their leadership."

"The (autonomy) agreement provided for a withdrawal from Gaza not within the Gaza Strip. It is a withdrawal (that we) agreed and not a redeployment."

He called on Israel to implement fully the Sept. 13 accord granting autonomy to Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"This suspension signals an important message which will permit us to proceed more smoothly," Dr. Shaath said.

"The Israeli interpretation of the agreement is quite failing to grasp the meaning of withdrawal and its requirement. The (Israeli) plan in our mind falls far short of the requirement."

PLO delegates accused Israel of wanting to carve up the Gaza Strip into a "series of islands" under a plan to encamp troops in three fortified areas of Jewish settlement.

The PLO men did not resume scheduled talks with Israel during the afternoon and part of the Israeli delegation left the hotel.

As tension mounted, the chief delegates of both sides went into a two-hour tete-a-tete meeting to seek a solution

to the impasse on autonomy deal.

General Shahak told a press conference he hoped the negotiations would resume as soon as possible.

But he stressed: "We do not need any consultations. We know what we want."

"We did not ask to stop the negotiations. I am convinced the negotiations will soon resume, although I cannot give you a date now."

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned there would be no concessions on security matters.

"We know there are difficulties over security," he told Israel radio. "Since we are intransigent on everything to do with our security needs and as we have no intention of making concessions in this area, you have to expect ups and downs, crises and mini-crises in the negotiations," he said.

And in Tunis, PLO political chief Farouk Kaddoumi called for an international force to be deployed in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho to "facilitate" the talks.

Mr. Kaddoumi, quoted by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, also called for all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories to be dismantled and for all the settlers to leave.

Speaking after a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, he said the presence of an "international protection force" was vital to ease the negotiations.

Mr. Kaddoumi slammed recent noting by settlers in the occupied territories, who targeted Palestinians for attacks after an Israeli was abducted and killed by hardliners Friday.

The attacks, carried out "under the noses" of the Israeli army, were "a major obstacle" in the way of the

Israeli-PLO autonomy deal, and could lead to a "large-scale explosion," Mr. Kaddoumi warned.

He said the issue of Jewish settlers was "particularly high on the list of priorities."

Israeli sources said that under the plan the army would pull back first from Palestinian refugee camps and towns.

It would redeploy to three "perimeters" — around settlements north of Gaza City, around two settlements close to Gaza and around the Gush Katif block of settlements in the south where the military headquarters would be relocated from Gaza City.

The three areas would be protected by electronic barriers and razor wire and linked to Israel by roads which avoid built-up Palestinian areas, the sources said.

The army also wants to have observation posts along Gaza's Mediterranean coastline and keep control of territorial waters.

Under the autonomy agreement disputes are to go to a ministerial-level Israeli-PLO liaison committee which first met in Cairo on Oct. 13, the same day the negotiations began in Taba.

The fourth round of talks at this Red Sea resort had been set to continue until Wednesday evening and go into a fifth round next week.

Before the talks broke up, Dr. Shaath said Palestinians rejected anything short of a straight Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

"The Israelis are not talking about withdrawal. They are talking about redeployment — and this is really a basic difference in the concept," he said.

Witnesses said many Israeli and Palestinian delegates had already left the Red Sea resort

(Continued on page 5)

Car-bomber dies; Islamic Jihad issues hoax claim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian driver of a car-bomb died when it blew up Tuesday and in the occupied Gaza Strip opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord issued a hoax statement claiming they had kidnapped and killed an Israeli settler.

The group Islamic Jihad sent a fax to the Associated Press claiming that it killed a 21-year-old Gaza settler to avenge the death of an Arab worker shot after he stabbed his Israeli employer in a pay dispute.

The claim from the Islamic Jihad's military wing included a muddy photocopy of an Israeli identification card, passport and checkbook.

An army spokesman, asked about the incident, said the man identified in the documents was "alive and well in Tel Aviv," his place of residence. The spokesman added that the man was never kidnapped.

Israeli sources said the Israeli's car and papers had been stolen last week.

The car-bomb went off at about 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) near the village of Sinjil in the West Bank, about 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian driver was killed, the army said.

Israeli radios said the bombing was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in a telephone call to a news agency bureau in Jerusalem. They said the army suspected that the target of the attack was the Shilo settlement, about 4 kilometres north of where the car blew up.

Tuesday's was the fifth suicide bombing Hamas has claimed since September when Israel and the PLO signed an autonomy deal for the Gaza Strip and Jericho. None has killed an Israeli.

The driver was Salameh Yussuf, 20, from Ayn Yabrud village, about 10 kilometres from Shilo, the caller said. He was a member of Izzeddin Al Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas.

An army patrol found the wreck with the remains of the body inside on a road close to Shilo.

The blast did not set off all the explosives and bottles of gas in the vehicle and bomb squad sappers had to remove the danger, the officials said.

The army clamped a curfew on Sinjil, the nearest Arab village, and combed the area between Ramallah and Nablus.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pointed a finger at Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists saying they sought "to sabotage the peace agreement and any chance of peace."

He accused the bombers in a radio interview of seeking to "provoke a reaction from the Israeli population and escalate violence, thereby undermining the peace process."

Israeli settlers blocked roads and attacked Arab property in the occupied territories for three days running after Hamas killed a settler last Friday.

The protests had subsided by Tuesday with only a few dozen settlers blocking a single road on the Gaza Strip for an

hour. The killing of a Jew can be no excuse for violence against innocent Arabs, Justice Minister David Libai said.

Israeli Television quoted Mr. Libai as saying: "the revolting murder of a Jew does not justify vengeance against an innocent Arab."

Mr. Libai said the government would "make sure the law is respected by all the inhabitants of the territories, and the settlers will not impose their will on the government through illegal actions."

He added that the government had not abandoned the settlers in the occupied territories "to a foreign regime," and the army would "continue protecting them."

One of the main Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace deal, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), called Monday for international pressure on Israel to halt attacks by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In a statement published in Damascus, the DFLP also called on Palestinians to "unify their position to counter the (Israeli) occupation and wreck" the deal on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Referring to the wave of settler unrest, the DFLP urged the international community to put pressure on Israel "to halt this criminal offence and ensure proper protection for our people."

(Continued on page 4)

Jordan Times correspondents analyse campaigns and assess candidates' chances in individual constituencies: Ma'an Governorate: Kabariti and Khleifat appear assured of seats; Islamists vie for remaining 3

From Abdullah Hasanat in Wadi Musa

IN THE neighbourhood of this ancient Nabatean stronghold lies Ma'an, the capital of the governorate which has a population of 140,000 and includes among its major towns Aqaba, Shobak and Taybeh.

The city of Ma'an, which takes most credit for triggering Jordan's democratisation process in 1989, has grown more modest over one last four years. Government-owned buildings, banks and hospitals that were charred in the April 1989 riots are now adorned with portraits of the 18 candidates for Monday's elections, as signs of the changed times.

There are no big slogans, no big promises. Every candidate is down-to-earth and reasonable in his programme and presenting his case," said a Maani observer of the campaign.

Even the number of candidates is modest when compared to other districts. For while the ratio of candidates to seats is as high as 11 to one in Amman's Fourth District,

it is only four to one in Ma'an governorate, the lowest ratio in the whole Kingdom.

Not that the governorate is short of hopefuls; rather, it is the Aug. 16 amendment to the election law (which introduced the one-person, one-vote formula) that made the race for the governorate's 35,824 votes all the more difficult to enter.

In 1989, when each voter could list five names in his or her ballot sheet, it was easy for candidates to barter votes and form alliances across the 120-kilometre length of the governorate. This time around, however, candidates in each of the constituency's five major population centres find it very difficult to campaign outside their own towns.

The residents of Shobak, for example, have selected Taha Hababbeh, a veteran civil servant, as their only candidate. While Mr. Hababbeh will be assured a substantial number of the votes of Shobak, (4900 registered voters), it will be very difficult for him to get any

(Continued on page 3)

Madaba and Thiban area (Sixth District) — issueless campaign, provincial politics

From Mariam M. Shahin in Madaba

A CONTEMPORARY stronghold of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Madaba district (or Sixth District of Amman as it is officially known) is likely to be the site of a serious competition between fundamentalist, provincial and nationalist politicians in the days leading up to the Nov. 8 elections.

While public debates are decidedly few in Madaba and the Thiban area, and most campaigns are about luring votes of favour and clan affiliations, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which is the umbrella organisation fighting this election for the Brotherhood, is expected to recapture at least one of the two Muslim seats in this district. The third seat of the constituency is reserved for the Christians.

The one-person, one-vote formula is said to have polarised tribal voting more vigorously than in the 1989 elections and the August 1992 bye-election, but not significantly enough to change the political landscape in the district.

Seventeen Muslim candidates are vying for their two seats where seven candidates are contesting the race for the Christian seat in this agriculturally-rich town of Biblical monuments.

Each Muslim contender is a member of the district's two large tribes, the Balgawieh (from Balqa) and the Bani Hamida. The two tribes have some 14,000 and 6,500 votes respectively. Almost all of Madaba's almost 3,000 Christian voters are expected to split their vote among the seven candidates running for the Christian seat.

If the IAF policy of fielding tribal-backed candidates works, as it did in 1989 and 1992, then this will again be a hotbed of the IAF since the party is fielding both a Balgawieh and Bani Hamida candidate. On the other hand, if the votes are split, as most local observers believe will be the case, non-IAF candidates could sweep the Madaba seats.

It is generally believed that one of the two Muslim seats will go to a member of Bani Hamida since the tribe's aims are centred on simply getting one of their own elected to

Parliament. In the 1992 bye-election here, an independent leftist Abdul Hafeth Shakhaneh, received almost all of the registered Bani Hamida votes but lost to the candidate of the large Balgawieh clan and IAF candidate Mohammad Khreibat Azaideh.

This time around the some 6,500 Bani Hamida votes will have to decide among three members of their clan who are running: Abdul Haith Alawi, the veteran Bani Hamida deputy and IAF candidate; Jamal Rawahneh, an independent; and Mr. Shakhaneh.

If the votes are equally split or even split into two equal parts, chances are that neither one of the three candidates will make it to the Lower House.

Both IAF candidates are said to be challenged by a

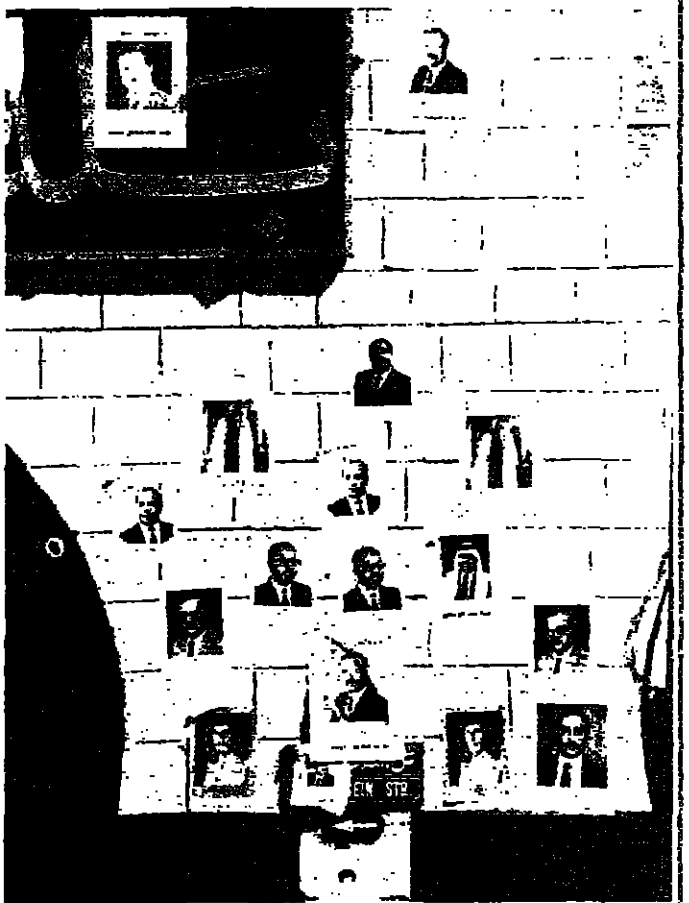
member of the Muslim Brotherhood who is running as an independent. He is Abdul Majid Al Aqtash, a lecturer at the University of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, who is known as the "father of fundamentalism" in Madaba.

Mr. Aqtash is expected to capture the votes of almost all of Madaba's Palestinian votes — estimated at some 3,000. He is also expected to receive many votes of Islamist-leaning voters who are dissatisfied with the performance of the two Islamists who served as Madaba deputies in the last Parliament, Messrs Alawi and Azaideh.

"This man (Aqtash) has strong popularity and is considered a likely winner," said a member of the Shawabke clan (who belong to the Balgawieh) in the election headquarters of Fayed Al Shawabke, one of nearly a dozen candidates vying for the Balgawieh votes.

Mr. Shawabke, the candidate, who is a former government official, is one of the leading non-Islamist candidates for the Muslim seat.

"But the result is difficult



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(Continued on page 4)

Voter card deadline extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The deadline for collecting voter registration cards has been extended to Friday afternoon (Nov. 5), according to a Ministry of Interior announcement Tuesday.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad who made the announcement, urged citizens who have not yet picked up their voter cards to do so, in order that they may participate in the coming general elections.

Meanwhile, the Federal Republic of Germany announced Tuesday that it has donated a computer system network worth \$120,000 to the Ministry of Interior to help finance the costs of running the elections.

The modern information equipment, consisting of two IBM file servers, four Acer servers, 22 work stations, printers, scanners and copiers, will be installed in the local election centres aiming at a speedy collection of voting results.

WARNING

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هذه امانة الاصل

IAEA: Iraqi nuclear capacity neutralised

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Monday Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme has been destroyed or neutralised, with no "big pieces" missing.

But Hans Blix, the IAEA's director-general, told the U.N. General Assembly he still had to fill in gaps about Iraq's nuclear supply channels and sources of scientific information.

But after 21 inspection missions, the IAEA concluded that "Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme has been destroyed or neutralised," he said.

"Through a piecing together of the evidence we have found, we have a consistent and coherent picture of the nuclear programme," he told a news conference following his speech.

"There are no big pieces missing," he said.

Mr. Blix said the agency had followed up reports on the "alleged existence" of a research reactor and found nothing.

He said declared non-irradiated highly-enriched uranium was removed in November 1991, and a schedule has been set up to remove declared irradiated highly-enriched uranium.

"When this activity is complete, no highly-enriched uranium and no capacity to produce it should remain in Iraq," he told the assembly.

But Mr. Blix said an inspection team now in Iraq needed more information on Iraq's technical advisors and suppliers.

"We hope that, on the basis of documentation very recently made available by Iraq, the last pieces of this picture will soon be clarified in a way which will contribute toward full and effective long-term monitoring," he added.

Iraq has not yet agreed to a

long-term monitoring programme to ensure it does not reacquire weapons of mass destruction.

Under a Security Council ceasefire resolution approved at the end of the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq is required to destroy and give documentation for its nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic weapons, and consent to monitoring.

Until then, sanctions stay in place on Iraq's oil exports. The embargo was imposed shortly after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The IAEA is handling nuclear weapons while a U.N. special commission set up by the Security Council is responsible for destruction of the biological, chemical and ballistic weapons.

Reports from both bodies in the last month were optimistic that the bulk of Iraq's dangerous weapons had been removed.

Sources close to both groups said it was doubtful any future inspection missions to Iraq would uncover more weapons and the remaining work would concentrate on verifying data.

Some of the data will never be recovered as Iraq destroyed some documentation in a standoff with nuclear inspectors at a parking lot in Baghdad in September 1991.

Therefore, the sources said, if Iraq ever agrees and the special commission would have to reach a political decision on whether to wind up the bulk of their investigations.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, intends to address the Security Council this month when arms talks resume in New York. He would like assurances that the oil embargo would be lifted if Baghdad agrees to the monitoring programme.

But it is extremely doubtful the council will give any formal for informal guarantees, thereby making it unlikely the oil embargo will be lifted in the near future.

Palestinians say they can do business with Israelis

By Jean-Luc Renaudie
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Dozens of Palestinian businessmen who turned out for the first time for an Israeli economic conference here declared they were ready to do business with their erstwhile enemies.

"The fact that a delegation of 130 businessmen from the Gaza Strip agreed to come here proves that we want to start companies and create jobs," including in association with the Israelis, said Fawzi Anbar, who runs a glassworks.

In the wake of the Palestinian autonomy agreement, he was one of 3,000 delegates from Israel, the occupied territories and abroad, including Morocco, the seize the historic moment to attend the "Jerusalem business conference."

"It is obvious that we would not have come before the agreement," he signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13, said Ibrahim Sabbah, a Gaza accountant.

For Mahamid Ibbid, who owns a shoe factory in the West Bank town of Hebron, "peace is the indispensable condition to do business."

"The economy must act as a bridge between the two peoples and not a barrier," he said.

Saba Abu Ita has a small factory making metal screws at Beit Sahur near Bethlehem.

He attended the conference "to develop relations" with Israeli and foreign industrialists.

Shlomo Ben Ami, in charge of projects linked to peace at the leading Israeli conglomerate Koor, was showing the way. He pulled out of his pocket dozens of business cards from Palestinians he had met at the three-day conference, which closed Monday.

However, not everyone was rushing in where Arabs have long feared to tread.

Hani Abu Dayyash, deputy chairman of the East Jerusalem travel agency Near East Tours, wanted to see conditions improve for Palestinian traders.

"The current situation cannot be allowed to continue. Everything has been done to put Palestinians professionals at a disadvantage," he complained.

Mr. Abu Dayyash said there were 47 Palestinian travel agents in the Holy City in 1967, compared with 36 today. Over the same period the number of Israeli agencies had soared from 35 to 436.

Economist Hisham Awartani of Al Najjah University in Nablus also expressed the traditional coolness between the two sides, and opposed setting up joint ventures for the time being.

"It's too early, there is still a psychological barrier," he said.

"The Palestinian cannot forget the thousands of dead from one day to the next."

Dissident: Time ripe for Saddam's ouster

LONDON (AP) — Military opposition to Saddam Hussein has intensified following an abortive coup in July and the atmosphere in Baghdad is now "much more conducive" to his overthrow, an Iraqi dissident said Monday.

Saad Saleh Jabr, president of the Free Iraqi Council, said President Saddam probably executed between 500 and 600 officers after the plot was betrayed, possibly by the United States which refused to participate.

"The officers have gone completely into high gear in opposition to Saddam because these officers that were executed have many brothers and cousins and relatives in top positions in the armed forces, and it's like a vendetta now," Mr. Jabr said.

"Now Saddam is damned if he does and he's damned if he doesn't. If he executes more officers, the vendetta grows and if he doesn't it encourages officers to attempt more coup d'etats," he said in an interview.

"I strongly believe... that the atmosphere inside Baghdad is much more conducive now for the overthrow of Saddam," Mr. Jabr said.

Since July, President Saddam has forbidden all officers from leaving the country and put many under surveillance, he said.

"The measures he has taken recently are the harshest he has ever taken, which indicates he's got his back to the wall," he said.

Mr. Jabr confirmed a Sunday Times report that he arranged a meeting last November between U.S. officials and Iraqi dissidents representing military officers who wanted American planes to bomb two military camps to create chaos at the start of their coup.

Senior officers at the camps would then seize power, he said.

"The request came from the officers themselves," he said.

"They did consider the Americans as a good ally and a good friend. We'd like to think that they still are."

Most of the officers in the plot were Sunni Muslims from President Saddam's hometown of Tikrit or from Mosul, the northern city whose men are most prominent in the Iraqi officer corps, said Mr. Jabr, a U.S.-educated Shiite Muslim.

Three days of secret talks in London were attended by Jassem Moukias, an influential lawyer from Tikrit, an Iraqi dissident living in Jordan, and U.S. government officials, he said.

"We assume they were CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)."

As a sign of good faith, the Iraqis named between 10 and 15 officers involved in the plot, Mr. Jabr said. The Americans said they wanted to check how well-placed they were.

After months of silence, and a change of government in Washington, the Clinton administration finally responded in March saying it would not supply planes for the bombing mission, he said.

"We later found out through other sources that they were concerned any change in Iraq would affect adversely the progress being made between the Arab states and Israel," Mr. Jabr said.

Mr. Jabr said he passed the message to the plotters and assumed they would scrap their plans. But they decided to go ahead with an assassination attempt in Baghdad on July 17, when President Saddam attended a parade marking the anniversary of his Baath Party's 1968 seizure of power.

Last bedouin nomads battle Israel for land

By Brian Perrin
The Associated Press

HAR HANEGEV — Fadia Abu Gaoud was cooking breakfast outside her tent when a convoy of Israeli tanks came and tore it down.

There were maybe 30 of them," said Mrs. Abu Gaoud, 65. "They pulled hard on the tent poles and broke them in pieces. They took our tent and all our things away and left us there. Now they won't tell us where is our tent."

The eviction of the Abu Gaoud clan and six other families from Har Hanegev in the desert was another skirmish in the bedouin's losing battle to maintain their nomadic lifestyle.

Traditionally, bedouin have roamed the deserts of the Middle East, indifferent to borders and states. Unlike Palestinians, they do not seek an independent state, only the right to live and graze their sheep on ancestral lands.

Starting in the 1950s, Israel encouraged bedouin to give up their nomadic ways and

move to townships built for them around Beersheba. Bedouin took Israeli citizenship and many joined the army, where they are renowned as trackers and scouts.

Clinton Bailey of Tel Aviv University, an expert on bedouin culture, said the policy was based on a belief that "the standard of living of nomadic people is too low and that they should be settled."

Mr. Bailey also said Israel wants to remove the bedouin from the central desert in order to keep the land open for future settlement of Jewish immigrants and for nature reserves or military training grounds.

In 1977, the lands administration formed a range unit known as the Green Patrol with prime mission of removing the bedouin. The patrol's tactics include cutting off water, confiscating livestock and physically removing tents and belongings, as at Har Hanegev.

Alex Bligh, a former government adviser on Arab affairs, said resettlement should be done "on a

humane basis and always by agreement," and criticised what he considers official haste.

"What is all the rush right now?" he asked. "I really don't understand. I'm afraid that what is going on... will bring more alienation of the bedouin."

The land around Har Hanegev is part of a military training zone and "nobody can live there — not Jews, not Christians, not Muslims," said Meron Humash of the lands administration.

He said force would be used only against bedouin who defied court orders: "We won't touch them until then, but if the court rules against them, we will move in and remove them with full force."

The evictions from Har Hanegev occurred after a 15-year court battle.

Haim Rosensweig, lawyer for the families, said they did not start legal action until long after the government's first attempt to move them.

"All their previous contacts with governments — the British and the Turks — had

meant only taxes," he said. "So when they heard 'government,' they just disappeared. If they had protested immediately, they might have had a chance."

Forty-five other families remain in Har Hanegev, the last of the bedouin living freely in Israel. They, too, await court rulings on their claims to the land.

Most of the 80,000 bedouin in the desert have been relocated since the 1970s. Many have moved into the townships, but more than 45,000 refuse to be settled. Forbidden to return to the desert, they live in crowded holding areas such as Ramat Hovav, on the outskirts of Beersheba.

Of Jordan's 300,000 bedouin, only about 7,000 remain nomadic. Bedouin also live in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, but few keep the nomadic tradition.

In Ramat Hovav, where Mrs. Abu Gaoud now lives in her son-in-law's patchwork tent of burlap and plastic, the air is heavy with the stench of chemicals from a plant across

the road. High-voltage wires from a power grid crisscross the holding camp in every direction.

"Being here chokes the life out of you," she said, pulling an old belt around her neck in a noose to illustrate. "I want to be in the open places again."

Ironically, as the lands administration moves the bedouin into settlements, the tourism ministry promotes their nomadic culture as an attraction.

Just south of Ramat Hovav is Pinat Hamidbar, a replica of a bedouin camp where tourists may sample their cuisine, sweet tea and bitter coffee and take camel rides into the desert.

"An American researcher came here from the university a few weeks ago," said Salama Shleib, a 25-year-old guide at the tourist camp who was evicted from Har Hanegev five years ago. "He said he wanted to study bedouin life."

"I told him there is no more bedouin life. This is a museum. We all have gone to Ramat Hovav."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor beats woman to death in exorcism

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo doctor who persuaded a woman she was possessed by evil spirits beat her to death in an attempt to exorcise her, a Cairo newspaper reported on Tuesday. Eye doctor Aladdin Mohammad was arrested after housewife Nadia Hafez Shabeeh, 39, died when he beat her with a rod to scare out evil spirits, Al Gomhouri said.

Kuwait criticises reported Iraq move

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq has proposed that a committee of Arab states to solve the question of Kuwaitis missing and believed held in Iraq but a Kuwaiti official has criticised the suggestion, the official Kuwaiti News Agency reported. The agency said without elaboration that Iraq on Monday had proposed Morocco and Qatar form a "Gulf-Maghreb and Kuwaiti parliamentary committee as a prelude to closing the file of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war." The agency said the proposal had been made on Monday by Nabil Najem, an Iraqi representative at the Arab League. It gave no further details. The agency report added: "An authoritative source said the alleged Iraqi effort to end the plight of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war was a new attempt to evade (U.N.) Security Council resolutions and efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross in this regard."

Israel pays U.S. parking fines

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel has paid nearly \$63,000 in outstanding parking fines to the District of Columbia but Russia is refusing to clear its \$3.8 million debt to the U.S. capital, the Washington Post reported Monday. Early Tuesday editions of the Post said Israel was the first government to settle its debt under a new law that would cut foreign aid to countries that refuse to pay their fines. The Post said Russia had the highest accumulated debt in Washington, with Nigeria in second place. Neither country intended paying their fines, arguing that the city provided them with too few parking spaces near their embassy buildings. Until now, embassies have been protected by diplomatic immunity from paying fines. But Congress recently passed legislation requiring countries receiving aid from the United States to pay or have their aid allotments reduced by the same amount plus a 10 per cent penalty.

PFLP, Hizbollah agree joint action

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Two groups opposed to the arrangement for Palestinian autonomy said here Monday they had agreed to do all they could to wreck the scheme. In a statement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said its Secretary-General George Habash and the leader of pro-Iranian group Lebanese Hizbollah, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, had agreed to "continue all forms of struggle against the Zionist occupation." The two groups said they had examined the "dangers" of the autonomy agreement for Palestinians in the occupied territories, signed in Washington on Sept. 13, and "U.S. attempts to impose compromises contradicting the aspirations and interests of the Arab Nation." Sheikh Nasrallah held talks in Damascus at the weekend with officials of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which also opposes the accord.

Israel to privatise shipyard

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Monday it would sell off loss-making Israel shipyards as part of a wider privatisation plan. The ministerial committee on privatisation approved a plan to take the yard out of receivership and settle its \$140 million debt before the sell off, treasury officials said. They did not give details of the agreement to be reached with the

company's creditors. The state-owned yard, which has civilian and military production, has been in receivership since 1986. Its annual turnover dropped from \$25 million in 1990 to about \$17 million in 1992. Losses reach some \$12 million per year. Investors would be obliged to continue operating the company in accordance with its lease from the Israeli ports authority, a treasury statement said. The sale would be subject to ministry of defence approval, officials added. They gave no further details. Israel hopes to make four billion shekels (\$1.42 billion) in 1994 from selling all or part of some 20 companies, compared with three billion shekels (\$1 billion) this year. Most of the money comes from the sale of banks.

Libya says air embargo causing accidents

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Libya reiterated its request Monday that the United Nations lift an air embargo imposed last year, saying it was responsible for one deadly crash and other dangerous incidents. In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Libyan Ambassador Ali Al Houderi said there had been accidents caused by the ban on import of parts needed to maintain Libya's fleet of civilian aircraft. The ambassador blamed a December 1992 crash of a Boeing 727 en route from Benghazi to Tripoli that killed 160 people on the embargo. On Sept. 1, there were two incidents. A Boeing 727 engine caught fire in flight and a drop in oxygen pressure in the cockpit of a second aircraft "nearly caused an air disaster," wrote Mr. Al Houderi. The United States, Britain and France insisted that the air and oil embargo be imposed in April 1992 after Libya refused to extradite two Libyans accused of the December, 1988 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people. They are now pushing for the sanctions to be toughened. France wants Libyans accused of bombing a UTA DC-10 over Niger that killed 170 people the following year.

Libya said to threaten to lay off Thais

BANGKOK (R) — Libya has threatened to lay off thousands of Thai workers, in an apparent protest against Thailand's cooperation with the United States over fears that Thais are helping Libya build chemical weapons plants. "We have learned that the Libyan government is pressuring a Korean company to sack 5,000 (Thai) workers who work in a canal excavation project," a senior Labour Ministry source said on Tuesday. The source said the threatened lay-offs apparently were in retaliation for Thailand's responses to U.S. allegations that Thai companies are the principal foreign contractors in building chemical weapons plants in Libya. "We have already stopped the companies from continuing their management, allegedly involved in the chemical plants," General Charan Kullavanich, secretary of Thailand's National Security Council, told Reuters last week. Thai authorities last month charged a contractor with illegally sending workers to Libya. They have also stopped companies from ordering equipment which might be used on such projects.

Cyprus protests to Britain over stand

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus protested to Britain Monday for the second time in two weeks over the British stand on the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the Turkish-occupied northern part of the island. Government spokesman Yannis Cassoulides said the Cypriot high commissioner in London was instructed to protest to the British Foreign Office over a briefing document on Cyprus it distributed to British reporters covering last month's Commonwealth summit on the island. "This briefing paper contains completely unacceptable information... the government is concerned about its implications," Mr. Cassoulides told reporters. He declined to elaborate. Greek Cypriot newspapers which published extracts of the 13-page document described it as "Turkish propaganda distributed through the British Foreign Office."

Ethiopia seeks African fix in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia won full backing of Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi on Tuesday for an African solution to the Somali crisis, officials said.

"I support the mandate given to you to search for a political settlement to the Somali problem," Mr. Moi was quoted by government officials as telling Mr. Meles, due to end a two-day visit to Kenya later in the day.

"It is regrettable that African resources have been misdirected into... adventures of warfare and civil strife. These conflicts are costly and destructive. They militate against development and force neighbours to shoulder a heavy burden of caring for the influx of refugees," he said.

Mr. Meles is leading Africans, under the Organisation of African Unity, and a separate grouping of the East African states of Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Djibouti, in an effort to hold talks among Somalia's feuding warlords.

Somalia slipped into anarchy and famine in which 300,000 people died after the 1991 rebel ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. Kenya is now home to 310,000 Somali refugees.

Aides said Mr. Meles would brief leaders of the 18-nation preferential trade area of eastern and southern Africa at a summit in Kampala at the weekend on his Somalia peace plan, details of which are not known.

Mr. Meles brokered the last Somali talks involving all 15 parties in March. The groups agreed to set up a transitional council to rule the country until pluralist polls next year. They also agreed on a ceasefire. But the groups, deeply mistrustful of each other, went back to clan-based bloodletting that has killed hundreds of people.

Mr. Moi said the peace accord signed in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa in March must be the basis for any further talks.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Ordy
18:00 Le Vagabond Des Mers
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Head of the Class
21:10 Documentary — "Horizon"
22:00 News in English
22:20 "The Women of Windsor"

PRAYER TIMES

04:31 Fajr
05:49 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
16:49 Maghreb
18:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810748
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637375
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternassia Church Tel. 623566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 63851, Tel.

628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824325
German-speaking Evangelical Congregational Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 11 / 20
Aqaba 17 / 24
Deserts 9 / 22
Jordan Valley 15 / 27

Yesterdays high temperature:

Amman 18, Aqaba 27, Humidity readings: Amman 88 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Malsiri 751672
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 731039
Dr. Mohammad Al Izzah 752971
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 636762
Al Salem pharmacy 647020
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 636672
Najib pharmacy 647052

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (—)
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Awad 978075
Khalifeh pharmacy 984171

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605901
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 797111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 014230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Hospital 813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 664131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 664127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/6
Army, E-Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 097983323
Zarqa National Hospital 097980561
In Sina Hospital 097986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital 09798990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02327555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02327275
The Al-Nabees Hospital 02327100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03514111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:55 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Larnaca (RJ)
16:35 London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:58 Istanbul (RJ)
17:25 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:20 Rome (RJ)
23:00 Cairo (RJ)
23:10 Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:45 Rome (AZ)
05:35 Cairo (MS)
16:30 Jeddah (SA)
18:15 Sanaa (YV)
18:

Ministry to examine Petra region's tourism needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is drawing up an integrated and comprehensive plan to examine the Petra region in order to meet the needs of the tourism industry in these areas of major attraction, Minister of Tourism Mohammad Al Adwan said Tuesday.

A special committee which would group representatives of various tourist offices is to supervise the implementation of the study and plans for developing the Petra region, said Dr. Adwan.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with representatives of travel and tourist offices, the Mayor of Wadi Musa, (near Petra), horse owners whose livelihood depends on providing horseback rides to tourists through the ancient city and representatives of the Jordanian Hotels Association.

In reviewing ways to stimulate the tourism industry, Dr. Adwan said the ministry plans to develop the infrastructure

for touristic services in the region and has granted licences for the construction of six hotels in the area.

Three hotels are already being built.

Tourist groups to the Kingdom are on the increase and it is vital for the public and private sectors to step up their cooperation to offer good services, said the minister.

As tourism is one of the country's main sources of income it is of vital importance to develop this industry with a view to safeguarding the national interests, added Dr. Adwan.

Following a discussion of problems facing the industry in Petra and the southern regions, a decision was taken to set up a sub-committee to deal with any obstacles.

The sub-committee, which is to be chaired by Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah, will group representatives of the travel and tourist offices and Petra area horse owners.



The sq., a passageway leading to the rock-carved Nabatean city of Petra (Staff photo by Aynsey Floyd)



Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar Tuesday meets with Jordan News Agency, Petra, staff (Petra photo)

Jordan has dealt honestly, sincerely with Palestine issue — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar said Jordan has dealt with the Palestine question with all honesty, honour, trust and sincerity and has defended the Palestinian cause with all the means available.

At a meeting with the Jordan News Agency staff, Dr. Abu Nowar said Jordan's firm position on regional and international issues is an honourable one.

He said that the current atmosphere requires that "all

of us be alert and carefully. He stressed the importance of consolidating Jordan's position and objectives safeguarding national achievements and enhancing the Kingdom's capacities.

On parliamentary elections which will be held next Monday, Dr. Abu Nowar said the government is guided in its action by His Majesty King Hussein's directives which are meant to ensure the freedom, integrity and fairness of the elections.

He added that the govern-

ment's work is based on credibility of this position.

The minister praised the role of the Jordan News Agency in reflecting Jordan's image.

The agency has an important role to play, particularly at this crucial stage in the history of our people and nation," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

He emphasised the need to deal with the issues at hand with an enlightened mind and to observe accuracy of information and objectivity in relaying it.



Klaus Kinkel

German foreign minister to arrive today

AMMAN (Petra) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrives here today (Wednesday) on a one-day visit for talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Kinkel is scheduled to meet His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

On the eve of Mr. Kinkel's visit, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan welcomed the German official's visit and said it will focus on the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

In a statement Mr. Al Hassan said Jordan attaches special importance to this visit, given Germany's contribution as a member of the European Community (EC), to the peace process and developing economic and commercial relations.

Mr. Kinkel will address a press conference, which will be held Wednesday evening to brief journalists on the outcome of his talks in Jordan and the region.

affiliations of some of the Madaba candidates:

Christian seat: (one)

— Salem Al Nahas — JPDP member.

— Samih Farah Azaizat — independent.

— Ghaleb Qsuss-Karadshah — independent.

Muslim seats — (two)

— Fayed Shawabke — former government official.

— Abdul Majeed Aqtash — independent member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

— Mohammad Abu Kaf — independent Islamist.

— Mohammad Azaideh — IAF candidate and former deputy since August 1992 (Balgaweh).

— Abdul Hafith Alawi — IAF candidate and former deputy for Madaba (since 1989).

— Abdul Hafith Shakhaneh — former communist, now independent leftist.

ters, who live in Madaba's refugee camp, give him their votes.

Thus left wing votes could go to either Mr. Nahas or Mr. Shakhaneh.

But two other candidates for the Christian seat in Madaba are believed to have equally strong chances at winning the Christian seat if this category of candidates is to rely on Christian/clan votes alone.

Ghaleb Qsuss-Karadshah and Samih Farah Al Azaizat are said to have the best chance of Christian backing in their district.

"People here are concerned about what the deputy will do for Madaba and not theories and rhetoric," said the wife of one of the Christian candidates, who did not want to be identified by name.

The following are the names and political and tribal

Jordan gets \$80m World Bank loan; Japan studies matching credit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has received \$80 million in a World Bank loan to finance expansion of its energy sector, and the loan will be matched by a Japanese government loan on the same terms and conditions, officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

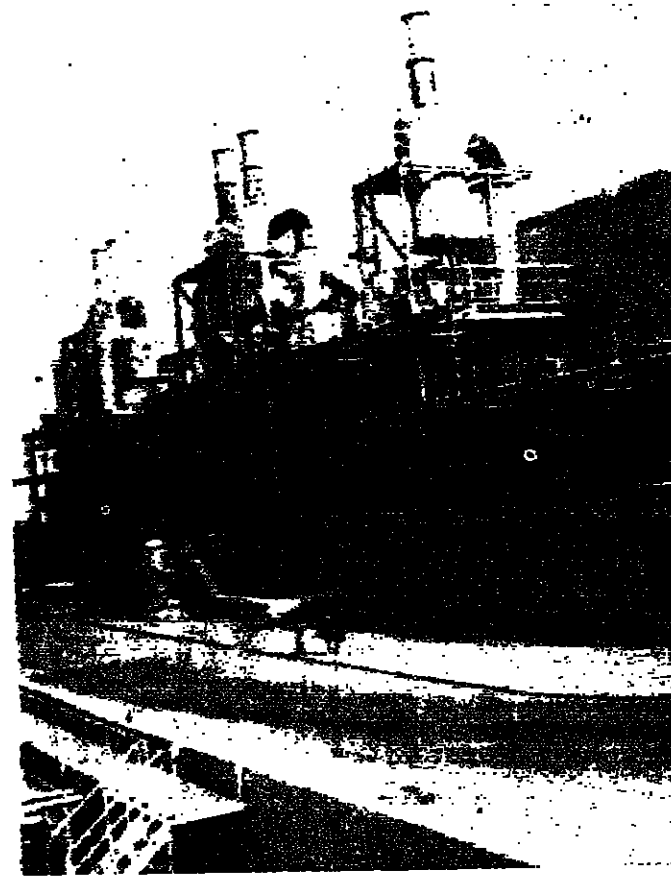
The officials noted that the release of the World Bank loan comes after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) approval of Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

They said the loan would be utilised for several energy projects, particularly for an expansion scheme at the Aqaba thermal power plant. The scheme, which involves increasing the generating capacity to 260 megawatts from the present 130 megawatts at the oil-run plant, was shelved in the late 80s when gas was found in Al Rishah, in eastern Jordan.

At the then prevailing prices, the expansion was to have cost around \$300 million. Present estimated cost is unknown.

With the installation and commissioning of an additional 30-megawatt turbine at Al Rishah to two other 30-megawatt generators, gas now accounts for around 15 per cent of the Kingdom's energy needs.

The gas fields at Al Rishah are believed to hold around 215 billion cubic feet of natu-



The Aqaba thermal power plant (File photo)

ral gas. Daily production at the fields was raised to 45 million cubic feet along with the installation of the third 30-megawatt generator at the site last month.

Another gas deposit of significant volume has been discovered in an area 50 kilometres away from Al

Rishah. Officials said work was continuing at the site to establish the possible reserves there.

Toshihiro Shinohara of the Japanese embassy in Amman said, meanwhile, his government had pledged to match

the \$80 million World Bank loan at a meeting of a consultative group of donors in Paris early this year.

Now that the World Bank loan has been released, "we will be looking into the modalities of the Japanese contribution," Mr. Shinohara told the Jordan Times.

Neither Mr. Shinohara nor the officials could provide the terms and conditions of the loans, such as interest and repayment period, except that they were "soft credits."

The World Bank decision to release the loan was taken in early October after the IMF provided a stand-by certification that Jordan was following the measures stipulated in the economic restructuring programme.

The certification also approved a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) quest to increase a ceiling on commercial bank credits for the last quarter of 1993. Under the increase, the ceiling was raised to JD 460 million from JD 400 million for the whole year.

The IMF approval was issued on the basis of an assurance provided by Jordan that it would soon be adopting some of the outstanding measures stipulated in the restructuring agreement.

Jordan has delayed the introduction of a sales tax to replace a current consumption tax until the end of the year. The tax was supposed to have been in place in early 1993.

Prince Ra'd calls for comprehensive strategy for the handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, who is president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, Tuesday stressed the need to draft a comprehensive strategy for the handicapped, covering the areas of health, labour, education, public safety and integration of the handicapped in their communities.

Prince Ra'd was speaking during a meeting of the National Council for the Handicapped, chaired by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sogor.

Prince Ra'd called for rehabilitating handicapped people and preparing them for jobs in various institutions, in line with a commitment made by companies and institutions to employ at least 2 per cent of their staff from among the

handicapped. Dr. Sogor said the Social Development Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, have been offering jobs to the handicapped for three years.

He stressed that the ministry plans to establish a school for the handicapped in each governorate.

The council reviewed a working paper presented by several ministries, including proposals and recommendations to address the problems of the disabled and establish a genetic counselling unit at the Ministry of Health Disability Diagnostic Centre.

The proposed unit can perform genetic tests on couples considering marriage to determine the probability of their having a genetically disabled child.

Municipality to help Amman flood victims

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Municipality is determined to help homeowners who are threatened by floods in the wadis and close to streams find other, safer, areas in which to live, and action in this regard is expected to be taken early next spring, according to Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times that the municipality, in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), would offer new housing units to homeowners in these flood-prone areas and the municipality would offer compensation to encourage residents to leave these dangerous zones.

The mayor was commenting on Monday's flooding of 13 homes in the low lying districts including Wadi Haddadeh, as a result of the unexpected torrential rains that fell in the early hours of the morning Monday.

These homes, Dr. Abbadi said, are built illegally in areas marked for streets, and their residents are constantly facing the danger of winter floods.

In preparation for the cold season this year, the municipality's teams had cleaned all the manholes and culverts to facilitate the flow of rain water, but sand and earth from pavements and in front of newly built homes were swept by

Monday's rains into these underground channels causing the flooding, continued the mayor.

He added that municipality teams are at work clearing the blocked areas and will remain on alert for any emergency.

Those homes which were flooded, said Dr. Abbadi, lie below the street level which was raised in the course of a JD 3 million re-organisation project conducted by the municipality.

All we can do this winter is to open temporary canals to channel away the rain water until the homeowners move, according to the mayor.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) and the municipality rescue teams and emergency services took part in providing relief to the residents affected by the floods, while the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided the flood victims with food and blankets.

The mayor was among the first group of officials to inspect the flooded homes.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology said Tuesday that no more rain was expected Wednesday, and no cold fronts were due within the next four to five days.

A department official said that temperatures could reach 20°C Wednesday, and will drop to around 9°C at night in the Amman region.

Listless campaign, provincial politics

(Continued from page 1)

to predict because the votes could go into so many directions and thus nothing should be taken for granted," his relative said.

The director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, and a native of Madaba, Dr. Mustapha Hamareh, said such confusion may be due to the fact that "local issues are being dealt on one level, while true political debate is absent."

On the other hand, only one of the seven candidates for the Christian seat is politicised, or more accurately speaking, ideologically motivated. He is Salem Nahas, the candidate of the Jordan's Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP), who stands only a moderate chance of winning.

Mr. Nahas's chances will be stronger only if Muslim

leftists and Palestinian vo-

ters, who live in Madaba's refugee camp, give him their votes.

Thus left wing votes could go to either Mr. Nahas or Mr. Shakhaneh.

But two other candidates for the Christian seat in Madaba are believed to have equally strong chances at winning the Christian seat if this category of candidates is to rely on Christian/clan votes alone.

Ghaleb Qsuss-Karadshah and Samih Farah Al Azaizat are said to have the best chance of Christian backing in their district.

"People here are concerned about what the deputy will do for Madaba and not theories and rhetoric," said the wife of one of the Christian candidates, who did not want to be identified by name.

The following are the names and political and tribal

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Journalist awarded Tunisia's cultural medal

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Tuesday conferred Tunisia's medal of Cultural Merit on Jarir Maraqa, a Jordanian citizen who has been running the Qatari News Agency office in Tunis for 14 years. President Ben Ali also presented a gold medal to Mr. Maraqa in appreciation of his effort in promoting Arab information activities and serving the Arab media. Mr. Maraqa had worked for the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Jordan Broadcasting Corporation before taking up his post as director of the Qatari News Agency in Tunis in 1976.

Income Tax Department collects JD7.3m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department collected JD7,316,963 from taxpayers during October, compared with JD6,563,982 collected in October 1992, according to Income Tax Department Director General Mansour Haddadin. Mr. Haddadin said the department has collected JD105,598,359 during the period Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 1993.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funnun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition.
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alia Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloo at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraiq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Abdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

مطلوب شقة ارضية او منزل للايجار

استاذ في كلية الاقتصاد / الجامعة الاردنية وعائلته بحاجة الى شقة ارضية او منزل للايجار لمدة سنتين مفروش او غير مفروش ٣ غرف نوم وصالونات وتوابعه يفضل السكن في احدى المناطق التالية : خلا - ضاحية الرابية - الشميساني ام الدينة - والصوفية . الرجاء الاتصال على هاتف رقم ٨٢٣٤٦٦ / ٨٢٣٤٧٧ وترك ملاحظة للدكتور ناصر .

WANTED FOR RENT

University professor, wife and 2 infants are in need of a garden apartment or house, with 3 bedrooms, furnished or unfurnished, in any of the following areas : Khaldi, Al Rabia, Shmeasani, Um uthaina, Sweifieh. Please leave a message for Dr. Naser at Tel.: 823466 or 823477

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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Jordan Times

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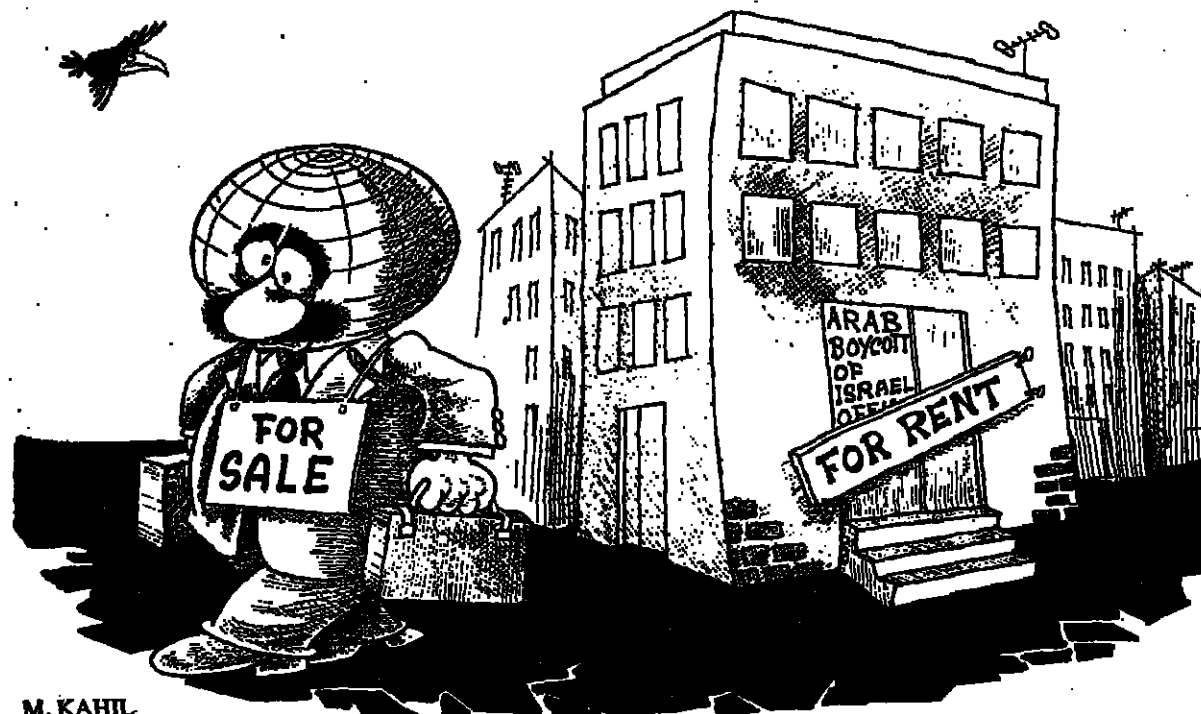
Elections par excellence

REPORTS ON elections being held in newly democratising countries talk of candidates using every trick in the book and outside it to tip the scales in their favour. Those tricks include among other things vote rigging, double or triple voting, destruction of ballot boxes, vote buying and tearing up of voter cards to block voting for opponents. There have been already allegations and warnings that one or more of these methods could be used in our own elections on Monday. The law of course guarantees that every candidate can have his or her representative present at the polling centre. Governors have already held meetings with candidates and their representatives to explain to them the rules of the game. The Ministry of Interior has also deployed 19,000 police officers to maintain law and order at polling stations throughout the Kingdom. It is of course expected that these officers have already been and would further be briefed on violations and handling of offenders. During the whole day Monday, the police force is expected to behave like "elections officers" in the same manner that traffic police handle the movement of traffic and fine offenders. Courts, according to the law, can order the imprisonment up to one year or fines up to JD 500 of violators committing any of a dozen electoral crimes. These include impersonation, double or triple voting, carrying arms, use of force to enter into a polling station, impeding elections and tampering with ballot boxes, papers or election cards. There are bound to be in these elections, like in any other elections around the world, many problems that require the attention of every official involved in the process. The ultimate responsibility, however, for ensuring free and fair elections rests with the government as entrusted to it by the law and by the continued urging of the leadership. It is therefore the sacred duty of the government to ensure problem-free elections that would in turn strengthen our democratic process and enhance people's faith in our country as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily Tuesday blamed the Israeli government and army for the continued acts of aggression of the Jewish settlers against the Palestinian population in the West Bank. Despite the concessions offered by the PLO, which contributed to the conclusion of the Sept. 13 agreement with the Israeli government, nothing is being done to stem the acts of violence committed against the Palestinian citizens, said the paper. It is to be noted that the wave of violence coincided with the start of PLO-Israeli talks in Taba over the implementation of the PLO-Israeli deal for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, the paper said. The settlers, whose actions are not checked by the Israeli forces are trying to sabotage the deal concluded on Sept. 13, especially as they realise that their settlements would be located in areas where the self-rule government is to be established, added the paper. Had the Israeli government reached a deal with the PLO, whereby the settlements could be dismantled, no violence would have erupted in the occupied Arab lands and no Israeli settlers would have brutally and viciously attacked Arab citizens and their property, added the daily. The paper said that Yitzhak Rabin's government should now put an end to such provocative actions on the part of the settlers since the continuation of the violence is bound to undermine the PLO-Israeli deal, should the deal fail, more despair and more violence on the two sides will flare up, destroying any hope of a settlement.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said he backed calls for maintaining the boycott of Israel until peace has been established. Arab fears that Israeli goods and economic power would dominate the Arab markets is justified in the absence of a genuine peace, security and stability, said Taber Al Udwai. The Arabs must not end their boycott of Israel as long as the Israelis hold on to Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel and as long as they refuse to recognise the full rights of the Palestinians, called Udwai. The present Israeli policies and recent statements by Israeli leaders indicate that peace is still out of reach and that the Arab-Israeli conflict will take a long time to be settled, said the writer. The Arab boycott of Israel should remain in place for at least five years, during the Palestinian self-rule, and should last until Israel recognises the rights of the Arabs in their homeland, stressed Udwai. The Arab League, said the writer, should deny Israel the fulfilment of its dream of dominating the Arab economy and the Arab future while it continues to defy world resolutions and continues to strengthen its hold over the Palestinian land through its settlements. The writer demanded that the Arab League take the initiative and declare measures to ensure the continuation of the boycott to safeguard the Arab Nation's interests.



M. KAHIL

The Arab boycott of Israel should continue until peace is attained

By Pascal B. Karmy

Following His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's meeting with U.S. President Clinton and Shimon Peres at the White House on Oct. 1, the Prince stated the following: "It would be economic suicide for the Arabs to lift the boycott without gaining anything in return. To those who have said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide."

Again, in the speech delivered on Oct. 26 at the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan stated: "The Arab boycott of Israel has always been linked to the Middle East conflict and after the conflict has been settled the boycott rules will be dealt with accordingly." These statements reflect factually and legally the point of view of international law and international customary practice.

The Arab boycott of Israel was decided unanimously by the member states of the Arab League in the aftermath of the Israeli-Arab war in 1948 which resulted in the expulsion of the Israelis of thousands of Palestinians from their homes in Palestine. In order to formalise, supervise and control this boycott, the Arab League established The Arab Boycott of Israel Office as a subsidiary organ of the league. The committee members of the office whose seat is in Damascus, meet once a year to consider the latest development of the boycott of Israel. The last meeting, scheduled to be held in Damascus on Oct. 24, was postponed indefinitely, apparently following American pressure as a result of which eight Arab states refused to attend.

The functions and duties of the boycott office are, *inter alia*, to gather information about companies which have relations with Israeli companies, to find out any foreign company which has an

office or a branch in Israel, carries on business or has investment in Israel. Such companies are put on the blacklist and their names are circulated to all Arab countries so that the latter do not establish any commercial links with them. Nationals of Arab countries are also prohibited to establish any commercial dealings with Israel or its citizens. Israeli exports are subject to the boycott. Goods or commodities imported by Arab countries must be accompanied by certificates indicating their origin. These certificates must be endorsed by the pertinent Arab chamber of commerce so as to prevent the entry of Israeli exports into the Arab countries under the guise of foreign exports. Thus, the Arab boycott of Israel is in direct in that any foreign company having commercial dealings with Israel is boycotted and put on the blacklist.

At the outset of the establishment of the Arab boycott, and thereafter, it was believed that the Arab boycott would have little or no effect on the Israeli economy. It was alleged that the boycott would be detrimental to the economies of the Arab countries as many foreign companies would prefer to do business with Israel rather than with the Arab countries. And it was further claimed that Israeli goods were being exported to the Arabs either clandestinely or indirectly, under false certificates of origin. If these claims and allegations were true, then why did the U.S. and the American Jews raise an outcry against the Arab boycott and even went so far as to threaten the PLO if it supported the boycott.

In effect, later developments have demonstrated that the boycott has had its

effect not only on Israel but also on foreign companies put on the blacklist. To counter the boycott, the U.S. Congress passed laws against any American company which complies with the Arab boycott rules and made it liable to legal action and consequent imposition of heavy fines. Thus, American companies could no longer issue certificates of origin for their exports to the Arab countries. Other states, especially the industrialised European ones, followed suit and passed laws against the Arab boycott. In general however, the Arab boycott was respected although the importing Arab countries could no longer insist on the issue of certificates of origin by companies in the U.S. or in the European states.

Now what is the legal position with regard to the Arab boycott of Israel? Is it legal and is it justified? The legal point of view cannot be explained in *extenso* in this short article. Briefly stated, it must be pointed out that the Arab states are still in a state of war with Israel. Consequently, the rules of warfare apply as no peace treaty has been concluded to formally end the state of war. There may be now a truce or an armistice between Israel and the Arab states, particularly Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. The effect of a truce is to temporarily suspend active hostilities. Again, termination of hostilities may be ordered by the United Nations Security Council as were Resolutions 242 and 338 of 1967 and 1973 respectively, but such resolutions do not end the state of war as long as no peace treaty has been concluded between the belligerents. It can thus be concluded that the Arab states are entitled in law and in the exercise of their sovereign powers to boycott Israel either directly or indirectly.

It should be added that

apart from the Arab government's official boycott, the Arab peoples themselves support the boycott.

Examples of boycott on the international plane, as distinct from the Arab region, show that there are many such examples of boycott or trade embargo even where there exists no state of war between the state imposing the boycott or the embargo. Among the most important boycotts was that of the U.S. against China, which lasted until the 1970s when President Nixon made overtures to China. The U.S. is still boycotting Cuba and has done so since the accession to power of Fidel Castro in 1959. In compliance with United Nations resolutions, South Africa was boycotted by the whole world for its apartheid policy and the boycott was very recently lifted following the termination of this policy. The U.S. again imposed a very harsh trade embargo, a few years ago, against Nicaragua in order to help the Contras to overthrow the legitimate Sandinista government although no hostilities had previously or thereafter occurred between the U.S. and Nicaragua.

The Arab states have strong legal grounds to continue the boycott of Israel in as much as the latter is still occupying parts of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unless and until Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories and a formal peace treaty has been concluded, the Arab boycott of Israel will and should persist and the Arab states are entitled to apply all forms of pressure to force Israel out of the occupied territories. Arab public opinion will be enraged if the boycott is lifted before real peace has been achieved in the Arab Middle East.

Two years after Madrid, foes to become partners

By Samia Nakhoul
 Reuters

CAIRO — "We have to crawl before we can walk and we have to walk before we can run. Today we all began to crawl," said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the historic 1991 Madrid peace conference.

True, a lot of squabbling and long procedural meetings have ensued between Arabs and Israelis. But analysts say the Madrid conference, launched on Oct. 31, 1991, marked its second anniversary with its mission almost fulfilled.

What was unthinkable before Madrid became reality. The taboos between Israel and its Arab neighbours had been broken and the enemies of the past were becoming the partners of the future.

On Sept. 13, Arabs and Israelis ended a century of hatred and hostility over territory they both claimed as their ancient homeland by signing a peace agreement in Washington.

The terms of the agreement were negotiated by the two sides secretly in the Norwegian capital Oslo while successive rounds of formal peace talks in Washington failed to yield progress.

Now Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are sitting face-to-face on a negotiating table in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba drawing the boundaries and the shape for an independent Palestinian state.

Israel and Jordan signed an outline peace agreement in September, and Israel and Syria and Lebanon are yet to follow.

The Taba talks deal with working out details on the bitterly contested and stubborn issues at the heart of the Middle East conflict — land, borders, prisoners, the rights of the stateless Palestinians and Israel's security.

Under the self-rule accord, Israeli troops would withdraw from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip by Dec. 13 and hand over security to the Palestinians.

"We wouldn't have had Oslo if we did not have Madrid. Madrid broke lots and lots of taboos between the Arabs and Israelis," said a western diplomat in reference to the secret talks between the PLO and Israel that led to the Sept. 13 self-rule deal.

"Think of the state of mind before and after Madrid. A Palestinian would not have talked to an Israeli and a Syrian would not have looked at

one either," said a PLO official.

An Israeli diplomat said: "Madrid was certainly a turning point. It changed all the philosophy, opened new minds and new horizons. Madrid changed the history of the whole region."

"We have achieved significant progress. The idea that we sit together today with the enemies of yesterday and talk together about solving the struggle not by war but by negotiations is an important achievement," he added.

Madrid gave birth to the idea of a comprehensive settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. On the side, it launched the multilateral talks on arms control, trade, environment and water rights.

Mr. Baker, whose patient shuttle diplomacy laid the groundwork for the Madrid conference, warned then that the road would be long and difficult and said merely getting Arabs and Israelis to sit together was a major feat.

Rounds and rounds of talks in Washington ended in deadlock. Arab parties, frustrated by slow progress, have repeatedly threatened to boycott the negotiations.

But every time deadlock was in sight the United States, a co-sponsor of the negotiations, sent envoys in a shuttle diplomacy to the region to save the talks from faltering.

The Madrid conference bore the first fruit for Palestinians and Israelis but they have not brought much for Syria and Lebanon, still deadlocked over their negotiations with Israel.

Syria, accusing Israel of dragging its feet following its self-rule deal with the PLO, has urged the United States to press the Jewish state to work for a comprehensive settlement.

It warned that failure to do so could trigger the end of the two-year-old U.S.-brokered peace process.

"We consider the peace process to be continuing. It has not broken down. When it breaks down it breaks down for good," President Hafez Al Assad said on Saturday. "Arabs are not standing in a queue waiting for the mercy of others, but the peace process is continuing."

Syria wants Israel to commit itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel refused to say how far it might withdraw until Syria said whether it would agree to a full peace — open borders and embassies.

LETTERS

New tune to old story

To the Editor:

I would like to take issue with the comments made by Dr. Labib Kamhawi to the CNN correspondent in Amman regarding the question of who is Palestinian and who is Jordanian. I think it is about time that the citizen of this country, whether Palestinian or Jordanian, heard a different tune on the issue. The citizens of this country are tired of the same old story about the loss of Palestine. We all agree that we owe the Palestinians many things: the knowledge, the manpower, the education and the management skills they brought into this country. But at the same time, the Palestinians must also acknowledge the fact that without the facilities Jordan has provided them with, they would be hard put to offer anybody any benefit of their talents and education. The rights that the Palestinians have enjoyed in this country are tremendous. They are, to name only a few, the rights to own property, to education in schools, to establish companies, and the freedoms of choice to reside anywhere and of movement. But most important of all, they have had the privilege of a Jordanian passport; this document is indeed a privilege because Jordan is the only country in the Middle East which gave it to the Palestinians, thus enabling them to travel as respectable citizens anywhere they wanted.

Dr. Kamhawi represents certain companies in Jordan because he holds that document, and I wonder if he can do that in other countries. I am sure that he is aware that most Palestinians in other countries are still living in camps and are not allowed to own, move or reside anywhere without the approval of these states' governments; nor are they allowed to own companies or represent an interest.

Let us therefore show some gratitude and leave the selfish attitude which has hindered us from thinking in a positive manner.

Although Dr. Kamhawi has the capability of being objective, since he holds a Ph.D. from England, I wonder why he cannot use his education in levelling constructive criticism, by starting to show some gratitude instead of his constant attacks on this country. Yes, we are living in a democracy, but it does not give him the right to criticise the regime which gave him the shelter and the protection which he is enjoying; and if he does not like it, well, I am sure other countries would welcome him with open arms.

Col. (Ret.) Nasser Mirza,
 P.O. Box 926500,
 Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Kabariti and Khleifat assured of seats

(Continued from page 1)

votes from Wadi Musa. Ma'an or Aqaba, except perhaps the votes of relatives or close friends, who are registered outside his town.

The same seems to apply in Wadi Musa. Awad Khleifat, a former minister of higher education, enjoys a consensus among his townsmen of Taybeh (1,500 votes) and strong support in his twin city of Wadi Musa (4,500 voters) where there is only one other candidate. Mohammad Hlat, competing with him. Mr. Hlat, a retired army general, enjoys the support of the Hlat and Tusei clans of the Wadi Musa tribes, and his candidacy could strip Dr. Khleifat of up to a thousand votes in the final count.

But it is in Aqaba and Ma'an where 15 candidates (eight and seven respectively) will be vying for the big vote, some 25,000 split into 13,000 in Aqaba and 12,000 in Ma'an.

The candidates in both cities represent the main tribes and political groups of the two cities. Lafi Qaba'a and Mohammad Garamsa, both representative of Ma'an tribes, and Badr Riati, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin in Aqaba, are running on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front. All three depend on both their tribal base and on the votes of committed IAF members and sympathisers. However, each in his

own area faces strong contenders

In Aqaba Badr Riati faces Abdul Karim Kabariti, a prominent former minister and the only member in the last Parliament representing the Ma'an governorate running for this year's election. Mr. Kabariti enjoys the support of his family who for decades has been Aqaba's powerhouse, both in terms of politics and business.

According to unconfirmed reports, a recent poll tips Mr. Kabariti as the favourite runner in Ma'an Governorate.

However, observers in Ma'an itself think that Dr. Khleifat is the favourite. According to those observers, Dr. Khleifat, who is a moderate conservative, could still get votes from Ma'an, something they say is not available to other candidates, from Aqaba or Shobak.

According to predictions made by observers in Ma'an and other towns in the south, those with a strong chance to win, in addition to Mr. Kabariti and Dr. Khleifat, are Badr Riati of the IAF in Aqaba, Lafi Qaba'a and Mohammad Garamsa, also member of the IAF in Ma'an, Mohammad Khatatbeh, an independent and representative of a large tribe in Ma'an, and Mr. Hababeh from Shobak.

But what about programmes?

According to banners,

campaign pamphlets and

observers of the elections, the programmes concentrate on unemployment, poverty, education, youth problems in addition to the IAF's all-encompassing slogan "Islam is the solution." While Islamists' slogans insist on "no peace with the Jews" others insist on "no surrender."

All those interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that this year's campaign did not have the lustre or fervour of 1989.

Even Dr. Khleifat's slogans are "devoid of any zeal" one observer said. "He and everyone else know what the limitations are. No one promises any miracles any more."

Car-bomber

(Continued from page 1)

In a related development, soldiers detained six members of the PLO's newly formed "civil guard" who were directing traffic in the West Bank town of Jericho. Arab reports said. The army was checking the reports.

Under the Israel-PLO agreement, Jericho is supposed to achieve autonomy within several months and be policed by a Palestinian force after the army begins withdrawing in December.

Those detained belong to a 130-member interim force set up by the PLO in Jericho, partly to prevent violence by Arab peace accord opponents.

Yeltsin chastises cabinet

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin sternly chastised his government Tuesday for failing to contain a revolt by conservative hardliners last month and blamed the cabinet for ineptitude in addressing Russia's most urgent political and economic needs.

The Russian president, in his first wide-ranging policy statement since the parliament-led rebellion was violently crushed on Oct. 4, also called for tough new emergency measures to counter potential new "political terrorism" in the country.

"It must be admitted that we underestimated this danger and showed unforgivable complacency," Mr. Yeltsin told a session of the cabinet that was also attended by about 50 other leading political figures and regional officials.

He criticised state law enforcement bodies for allowing armed groups which backed the parliament to operate "in the open" and made clear his view that the government had thoroughly mishandled the rebellion as it gathered force over two weeks.

"We now need emergency measures — political, legal and organizational — to curb political terrorism," Mr. Yeltsin said.

ملكيه من لى حولى

Snippets and tidbits from

Race takes a fiery turn towards home stretch: Some invoke libel; others use others' name

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. These are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

THE FOLLOWING item appeared yesterday as a lead story on the "election page" of an Arabic daily newspaper. This unofficial translation of the article is printed here without any comment by us:

agents had collected the cards on their behalf but failed to deliver them to their proper owners. Some even claimed that the candidates or their agents were destroying cards for some reason, thus depriving people of the right to vote on Nov. 8. Voters who have so far failed to get their cards say that they have tried to obtain their cards from the candidates or their agents often to no avail, noting that the candidates give different excuses for holding on to cards and some-

site, since voting cards are being given away without proper authorisation. People are wondering whether they can sue those defrauding them, mainly the candidates and their agents. They hope that the Interior Ministry would issue them substitute cards to enable them to take part in the coming elections. What has been left unsaid is that the past two days' rains have made it necessary for some candidates to put up new election banners, since many of the old ones have been rendered unusable because they were damaged by water falling from above.

THE COMMUNIST Party has again requested Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi to put an end to attacks from the pulpit against "Christians, Jews and communists." In a letter to the minister, the secretary general of the party, Yacoub Zayadin, who is also a parliamentary candidate for the Nov. 8 elections, demanded that Dr. Abbadi pay attention to improper behaviour of certain mosque preachers who were launching a campaign against the Christians and the communists. "We regret to inform you that instigation against Christians and communists is still being practised in some mosques during Friday prayers," said Dr. Zayadin in his letter, the text of which was published by his party's weekly newspaper Al Jamaheer. "On Friday, Oct. 29, 1993, the mosque preacher at Al Taqia Mosque in the Naser district (Amman) said "be-



Tied a yellow ribbon round an old oak tree? No, blew a soaking white banner down the side walk (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

ware of the Jews, Christians and communists. Beware, beware..." the letter read. "There is another preacher, called Jamal Al Farra, who moves among mosques delivering sermons instigating the public against the Christians," the letter continued. "The Muslim worshippers sit silent and are not ready to argue with the preacher as it is the habit for worshippers to listen with awe and reverence, but it is also the duty of the preacher to refrain from exploiting this situation in order to advocate political or partisan ideas through the ser-

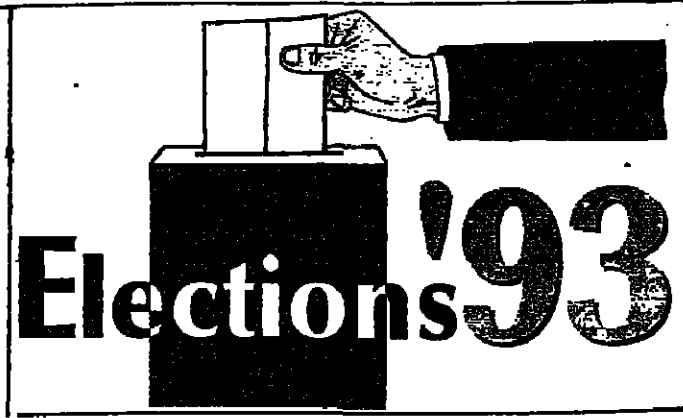
mons. Insistence on the part of these preachers to attack Jordanian citizens and to encourage hatred and bigotry can only serve the objectives of the enemies of the nation. These preachers' sermons tend to exasperate feelings, which might invite counter, extremist practices, which could lead to creating grudges among members of the community. Urgent action is therefore required to prevent this practice and to safeguard the national interests and ensure respect for the sanctity of places of worship." As if in re-

sponse to Dr. Zayadin's letter, the minister yesterday visited Zarqa, met with mosque preachers and urged them not to use the pulpits for electoral or defamation purposes. "Mosques are meant to implant goodness in human souls," Dr. Abbadi told his audience. "They should not be used to advance party aims and whims... The pulpit is meant for neither election propaganda, nor for libelling others or disseminating disinformation and misinformation." It is not yet known whether the minister took action against the preacher(s) in question, however. Nor did our information suggest that Dr. Zayadin received a written reply to his complaint.



Abdul Salam Al Abbadi

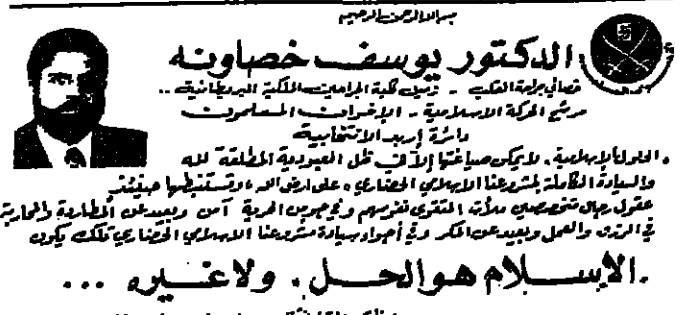
THE ISLAMIC Action Front (IAF) keeps complaining about what it claims are attacks on it by Jordanian writers and journalists. But at the same time the front pursues a campaign of slander and attack against others, the Communist Party also complains in the same Al Jamaheer. In its latest newsletter the IAF published a groundless re-



port about the Jordanian Communist Party," the communist mouthpiece said. "Al Jamaheer weekly has the ability to reply to the IAF's slanderous attacks, but opts for reason and dialogue and appeals to the IAF to act towards avoiding differences in opinions from assuming the form of slander and defamation."

cheap journalistic practice, violating the Election Law."

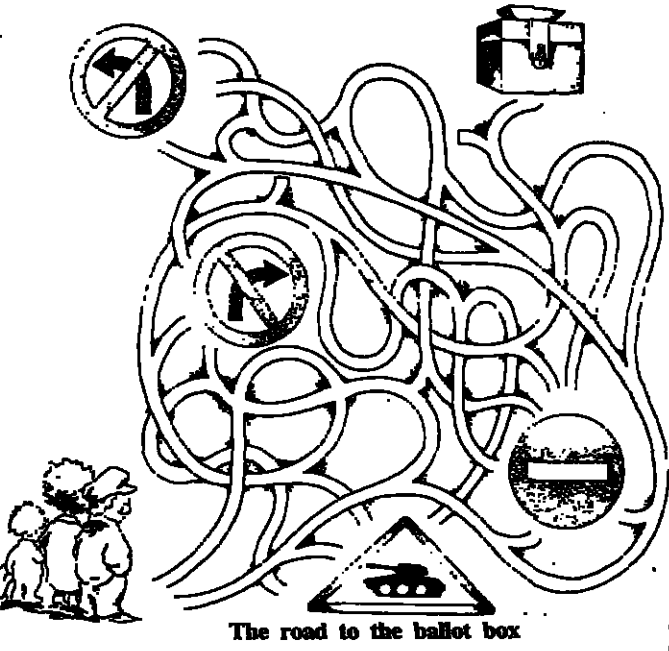
THE MUSLIM Brotherhood Movement issued a statement yesterday saying that it had not officially nominated any candidate under its own name or logo for the Nov. 8 elections. Those Islamists contesting the elec-



"HOW SHAMEFUL

it is that certain writers have failed to rise to the level of the requirements of journalism, and their writings are far from being objective and truthful, thus allowing their imagination and personal desires to dominate coverage of the election campaign," Al Jamaheer said in another corner. "These writers express their views that certain candidates are in the forefront of those running in the election (when in fact they are not). It has often happened that (newspaper) editors have caught these writers red-handed, sometimes trying to publish advertisements in the form of news items. Certain writers tend to slander certain candidates... This trend can only be interpreted as

Nermeen Murad



The road to the ballot box

"As we approach the deadline for the distribution of voting cards (which was extended yesterday from Wednesday to Friday) many people complain that they still are unable to collect theirs which they need to have in order to exercise that right. Citizens claim that the names were not displayed on voter lists or that candidates or their

times declare that they have lost them. Some citizens attributed the confusion to lack of organisation and chaos at distribution centres or to violations of the Election Law which stipulates that only members of the same family or agents acting for them against written authorisation can receive the cards. What is happening in fact is quite the oppo-

Palestinians reject plan

(Continued from page 1)

hotel at Taba for Israel and Cairo.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said he believed it was only a temporary setback.

Israel said from the start it intended to keep troops in parts of Gaza to protect about 4,000 Jewish settlers living among nearly one million Palestinians.

Palestinian sources said the PLO wanted Israel to pull its army out of Gaza and Jericho and deploy an Israeli police force in charge of security of the settlements.

Details sketched by sources close to both sides indicate the Israeli plan provides for fenced-off enclaves of Jewish settlements guarded by redeployed forces, a far cry from Palestinian calls that all troops and settlers leave the strip.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat, briefed on the disagreement in a telephone call from a senior Palestinian official at the talks, was upset by the Israeli proposal.

Mr. Arafat, they said, was concerned the Israelis were not abiding by the landmark peace agreement.

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PIAZZA ITALIA
Calendar of Events

<p>III Wednesday 3, Nov. 1993 7:30 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFFICIAL OPENING OF ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY • 1st FASHION SHOW with top models especially flown in from Italy, sponsored by El-Zay, Ready Wear Manufacturing Co. (specialized in the production of high quality men's wear) and GFT S.P.A. (manufacturer of leading international firms like: Armani, Valentino, Ungaro, Dior, Ferrand & Montana) • ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tono especially flown in from Venice 	<p>V Friday 5, Nov. 1993 7:30 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY • PIANO RECITAL by maestro Alberto Pomeranz, Professor at the Italian Conservatory of Santa Cecilia, Rome. Music by Casella, Liszt, Rossini, Mussorgsky. • COCKTAILS & CANAPES 	<p>VII Sunday 7, Nov. 1993 8:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY • ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tono especially flown in from Venice. • 2nd FASHION SHOW by Venetia, in a relaxed unconventional atmosphere.
<p>IV Thursday 4, Nov. 1993 8:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY • 2nd FASHION SHOW by El-Zay - GFT • ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tono especially flown in from Venice 	<p>VI Saturday 6, Nov. 1993 8:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY • OPERA RECITAL by Baritone Mario Boccardo accompanied by Pianist Barbara Cattabiani (aria by Bellini, Marini, Puccini, Rossini and Verdi) • ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tono especially flown in from Venice. • 1st FASHION SHOW by Venetia, in a relaxed unconventional atmosphere. 	<p>Sponsored by: Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan El-Zay GFT Alitalia co-sponsored by: Abu Shakra Trading Campanile Le Firme Scarpa Shoes - Amman Venetia</p> <p>Acknowledgements: Artist Lorenzo Fonda Salt Handicraft Training Centre</p> <p>Alitalia VENETIA Campanile GFT</p>

Proceeds will be offered to the National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

For detailed information & ticket reservation for these exclusive proposals, please contact: HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN, Tel. 641361, ext. 21034

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

Announces the invitation to tender No. 40F/93

JPMC announces the invitation to Tender No. 40F/93 (for the supply of equipment, electrical, instrumentation and control systems for permanent water supply system at Eshidiya Mine Project)

The tender is financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - Kuwait.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Monday, 22.11.1993. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 150 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 14:00 hours local time Thursday, Jan. 6, 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

Announces the invitation to tender No. 39F/93

JPMC announces the invitation to Tender No. 39F/93 (for the supply and supervisory services for (GRP) piping for permanent water supply system at Eshidiya Mine project)

The tender is financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - Kuwait.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Monday, 22.11.1993. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 400 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 14:00 hours local time, Thursday, Jan. 6, 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

هذه احدى الاصل

Government finances study to privatise Royal Jordanian

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A study on options available to the government on privatising the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), is going ahead after the government decided to finance the study from the treasury, sources said Tuesday.

The contract for the study has been awarded to a British firm, KPMG Peat Management Consultants, under a decision adopted several weeks ago, but the actual launch of work was delayed pending the financing arrangement, the sources told the Jordan Times.

The contract is worth "about \$170,000" and is expected to be completed in three months, one of the sources said.

"The prime objective of the study is to make a close evaluation of the national carrier and recommend the best options available to privatise the airline," said the source.

A KPMG team is expected to arrive in Amman early next week to launch the study, the source said.

The green signal for the study marks another phase in a long drawn-out process of RJ privatisation, a proposal being discussed for several years but brought into focus with the pressing debt burden of the airline.

Servicing the debt, estimated at JD265 million in both external and internal obligations, has been wiping out the

airline's operational profits and plunging it into the red for several years.

A preliminary study conducted last year finally established that privatisation was the best means for the airline to solve its problems, short of a massive infusion of government funds — an unlikely prospect.

That study found that the present capital of JD22 million (\$33 million) was inadequate and recommended that it be raised to at least \$100 million and foreign investors be invited to buy equity.

The broad outline of a proposal made by the study involves a gradual process of privatisation, starting with some of the company's local creditors — such as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Social Security Corpora-

tion and the Housing Bank — being given shares in the entity proportionate to their dues from the airline.

The overriding factor in any privatisation process will be a drive to ensure that Jordanians retain controlling interest in the new entity, the source said.

The shares given to the creditors could be resold after a fixed period only with a stipulation that the resale would not breach a 49 per cent ceiling on foreign ownership of the airline.

"The KPMG Peat study is expected to come up with definite recommendations for the privatisation mechanisms of the airline," the source told the Jordan Times.

A technical committee appointed by a higher panel, chaired by the minister of transport, will supervise the study.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN

TELEPHONE: 602170 / 643170

QUOTED MARKET SHARE PRICES LIST FOR TUESDAY 02/11/1993

HOUSING SECTION

COMPANY'S NAME

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	147,950	181,000	181,000	181,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15,440	6,120	6,200	6,180
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,800	1,950	1,950	1,940
TWO BUILDING BANK	24,178	4,000	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	70,702	3,950	3,950	3,950
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	11,458	3,120	3,120	3,120
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,948	3,950	3,950	3,950
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India issues hijack alert over Kashmir siege

SRINAGAR, India (R) — India issued a hijack alert Tuesday, saying Kashmiri separatists might seize an airliner to push for an end to an army siege of the Himalayan region's holiest Islamic shrine.

"We have sounded a hijack alert because we have information that the militants want to strike in other areas to pressure us on the shrine issue," Kashmir Police Chief Mahendra Sabherwal told Reuters.

He did not say what information had prompted the alert, issued on the 19th day of the siege of the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar, summer capital of largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Up to 150 people, including armed separatists, are holed up in the shrine.

An Indian Airlines pilot flying to Srinagar Tuesday said he had received the alert after landing at Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Passengers from Delhi were told to get off the plane in Jammu, frisked and asked to identify their luggage before being allowed back on board.

The pilot said he was told to fly the second leg to Srinagar from the cockpit door locked from take-off to landing.

There has been only one hijacking in India connected to the rebellion in the Kashmir Valley since it began in January 1990.

A Kashmiri militant hijacked an Indian Airlines flight to Srinagar in April. The plane landed at the Punjab city of

Amritsar near the border with Pakistan and was stormed by paramilitary commandos.

The hijacker, who had demanded to be flown to Afghanistan, was killed in the assault, police said. Passengers said they believed he was captured alive and killed on the tarmac.

The siege of the mosque, revered by Kashmiri Muslims for the hair of the Prophet Mohammed they believe it contains, has aroused more anti-Indian ire in the valley, where support for the revolt is considerable.

On Oct. 22, Indian security forces killed around 50 people protesting against the siege and many people have observed a general strike since it began at midnight on Oct. 15.

Government spokesman Mehmoor Ur Rehman told reporters Tuesday that government negotiators had held another round of talks with the militants, but gave no indications of progress.

He said a doctor was allowed through the army cordon Tuesday morning to treat ailing people inside Hazratbal.

Meanwhile, the United States assured India Tuesday that its policy toward Kashmir has not changed, hoping to assuage Indian anger over remarks by a senior State Department official.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Brill responded to Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit on last week's protest over a comment questioning the legal basis for India's claim to the Himalayan

territory.

Mr. Brill met Mr. Dixit Tuesday to explain the U.S. position, Foreign Office spokesman Shiv Shanker Mukherjee said. But he did not give any details of what Mr. Brill said.

A meeting in Washington between the Indian ambassador in the United States, Siddhartha Shanker Ray, and a top State Department official was being arranged, Mr. Mukherjee said.

In a background briefing not intended for quotation, assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael said Friday that Washington did not see the 1947 accession to India by Kashmir's Hindu ruler as meaning "that Kashmir is forever an integral part of India."

India protested that the United States had adopted "a studied tilt" toward Pakistan.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, at an election rally Monday, said Kashmir is India's "and no force on Earth can take it away from us."

Pakistan, which has fought two wars with India over Kashmir, says the people there should be allowed to determine their own future by referendum. Kashmir is the only state in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority.

On Monday, Mr. Brill sent a message to the Indian Foreign Ministry, but its contents were not disclosed. U.S. officials said it affirmed U.S. policy that Kashmir is a disputed territory and should be negotiated between India and Pakistan.



Rescue workers Tuesday remove the body of a victim from the wreckage of a train collision in Depok, a suburb of Jakarta, Indonesia (AFP photo)

35 killed in Indonesian train crash

DEPOK, Indonesia (R) — Two passenger trains collided on a single track near the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in the morning rush hour Tuesday and at least 35 people were reported dead.

Indonesia's official Antara News Agency said 20 people were killed immediately and 15 died later in hospital.

Officials at the scene, 20 kilometres south of Jakarta, said 110 people were injured, Antara later put the figure at 78.

"It sounded like a bomb. I was very scared," Mulyana, a housewife living near the scene, told Reuters as military rescue teams hacked through twisted metal.

The two electric trains, one of them travelling at about 60 kph (40 mph), collided near Depok, a small town midway between Jakarta and Bogor, at the height of the rush hour.

Police initially put the death toll at 11 but said the figure could be higher.

It was one of Indonesia's worst train accidents since 150 people were killed near Jakarta in a similar collision in 1987.

"This is the first collision we have had between electric trains," a Transport Ministry official said. The cause of the crash was not immediately clear.

Both hospitals in Depok were reported to be overflowing with injured, many forced to lie in corridors and out-

houses.

Hundreds of onlookers hampered sweat-soaked rescue workers, including civilians, as they laboured within sight of the picturesque Puncak Hills covered with tea plantations.

The front carriages of one of the trains, from Jakarta, were thrown into the air and lay on top of battered carriages of the train travelling to the capital from Bogor.

Witnesses said many passengers were injured when they jumped from the suspended carriages into nearby gardens.

Bogor is linked to Jakarta, a city of more than 10 million people, by a six-lane road as well as by a single track railway to Depok that becomes dual-track after the town.

Croats force thousands to flee in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Croat and Muslim forces battled in central Bosnia Tuesday, forcing thousands of terrified civilians to flee rampaging militias and some to take refuge with U.N. peacekeepers in the area.

The Swedish U.N. battalion in Croat-held Vares evacuated Tuesday morning about 50 of the 93 Muslims who took shelter overnight in a sawmill next to the Swedish base after being driven out of their homes by Croat gunmen.

Nearly 200 Muslim women and children spent the night huddled in freezing temperatures on the pavement and guarded by U.N. armoured vehicles. U.N. sources said.

They built fires to keep warm and woke up Tuesday morning to mortar fire echoing in the hills above where Muslim forces were pressing on their week-old advance against the Croat stronghold.

Hardline elements of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) took control of Vares on Oct. 23 and arrested about 250 Muslim men, conducting a reign of terror against local Muslims.

Swedish soldiers say Croat gunmen, some wearing masks and others with camouflaged faces and military fatigues, have been looting Muslim houses and intimidating Muslim women and children every night for more than a week.

On a looting spree, they raped at least one woman Monday night, eyewitnesses said.

"Many civilians are being threatened in the area and are seeking our protection," said Captain Bjorn Borgvall, a Swedish medical officer on U.N. peacekeeping duty in Vares.

The U.N. Protection Force reported serious fighting in the Bihac pocket between Muslim-led government army forces loyal to President Alija Izetbegovic and Muslim separatists led by maverick tycoon Fikret Abdic.

Bosnian state radio said Tuesday 79 soldiers loyal to Mr. Abdic surrendered Monday.

The radio said Muslim-controlled Jablanica in south-west Bosnia came under heavy Croat artillery attack Tuesday.

In Geneva diplomats said Croatian officials and representatives of the Serb-held Krajina enclave have been holding secret peace talks in Norway this week.

They said the secret negotiations on a ceasefire in the disputed Krajina were expected to lead to a meeting in Oslo later this week between Croatian President Franjo Tudman and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burundi premier emerges from hiding

BUJUMBURA (R) — Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi of Burundi, the top official since President Melchior Ndadaye was killed in a coup, emerged from 12 days in the French embassy Tuesday to hold talks with army chiefs. "She came out of the embassy guarded by about 20 French soldiers, who drove her to a nearby government guest house where she is holding talks with army commanders on the future of the country," one witness said. Ms. Kinigi and some ministers who survived the coup took refuge in the embassy at the time of the coup on Oct. 21. The coup triggered a new bout of tribal massacres between the majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis. She had said she was afraid she would be killed if she came out of the embassy and had urged the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity to send in about 1,000 troops to protect her and government members. On Monday the army rejected her call for foreign troops, saying this was against the constitution and public interest.

China, U.S. start improving ties

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States agreed Tuesday to improve their military relations, frozen since Beijing's army crushed pro-democracy protests in June 1989. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence Chas Freeman, the most senior defence official to visit Beijing since the crackdown, hailed "a series of very productive meetings" and said Washington now saw China as a potential partner. He pointed to Chinese and U.S. troops working side-by-side in U.N. peacekeepers in world trouble spots in future. While U.S. sanctions on arms sales to China imposed after 1989 remain in effect, Mr. Freeman said a programme of military exchanges could now begin. "These exchanges and this dialogue are all designed to achieve mutual understanding and trust, so that the two militaries can contribute both to improving bilateral relations and achieving peace and stability in a number of troubled spots in the world," Mr. Freeman told a news conference. China welcomed Mr. Freeman's visit and improved military ties.

Olivetti chief taken to Rome jail

ROME (R) — Olivetti computer chief Carlo De Benedetti was taken to Rome's Regina Coeli jail Tuesday after giving himself up on corruption charges, witnesses said. Police drove Mr. De Benedetti to Rome after he turned himself in before dawn at a police station in Milan. Magistrates are expected to question him over alleged corruption involving the state postal system. A white Lancia Delta Saloon carrying Mr. De Benedetti and his lawyer, flanked by two police cars, swept into the jail on the banks of the Tiber in central Rome. Lawyers had negotiated with magistrates over a long weekend holiday for All Saints' Day to ensure the Olivetti boss, the leading private sector industrialist caught up in Italy's huge corruption scandal, would be interrogated as soon as he gave himself up.

Over 1,000 pay last respects to Fellini

ROME (AFP) — Hundreds of people of all ages turned up on Tuesday morning at Cinecitta, in the Rome suburbs, to pay their last respects to the film-maker Federico Fellini, who died Sunday. The director's coffin was lying in state on a blue-draped podium in Studio Five, where the maestro shot many of his greatest films, temporarily transformed into a chapel of rest. Four guards, two of them Carabinieri with sabres, stood vigil at the four corners of the coffin, on which a giant wreath of red roses had been laid from his widow and wife of 50 years, the actress Giulietta Masina. Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was one of the first to arrive when the studio opened its doors at 9:00 a.m. (0800 GMT). Other visitors included the young Sicilian director Giuseppe Tornatore (of Cinema Paradiso) and Giuseppe Fiore, who worked on special effects with Fellini. "He was like a father," Fiore said.

Autopsy on Phoenix 'inconclusive'

LOS ANGELES (R) — An autopsy conducted Monday on the body of actor River Phoenix failed to determine what caused him to collapse outside a popular nightclub, and officials said further tests for drugs would now be performed. As evidence mounted that drugs may have been a factor in the 23-year-old actor's mysterious death early Sunday, the Los Angeles County Coroner's office reported that the results of an autopsy were "inconclusive." Investigators said they would now undertake a complex battery of toxicological tests to examine the body's blood and tissue for a variety of drugs, a procedure expected to take six to eight weeks. Hollywood was stunned by the actor's death. Unlike many other twentysomething stars with bad-boy images, Phoenix — an Oscar nominee for his role in the 1988 movie Running on Empty — was considered a model of clean living.

Russian Black Sea Fleet sends squadron to defend Georgian ports

MOSCOW (AFP) — Six ships from the Black Sea Fleet were due to leave their base at Sevastopol Tuesday to defend the Georgian ports of Batumi and Poti in the name of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Interfax News Agency reported.

The agency did not state whether infantry troops aboard the ships would land at Georgian ports or stay on their vessels.

The deployment comes as Georgian government forces press on with efforts to crush the last pockets of resistance in western Georgia from rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

The operation is being supervised directly by Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, who had a long telephone conversation last week with Georgian Presi-

dent Eduard Shevardnadze, Interfax said.

Military sources quoted by Interfax said the fleet included a patrol boat, a mine-sweeper and four assault ships transporting marine infantry units.

The sea operation is part of a plan set out by Tbilisi with Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to restore and protect key rail links and other supply and communications lines from the Black Sea ports to the rest of the Caucasus region.

The lines have been cut off or threatened by the Gamsakhurdia rebellion.

Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk, whose country shares control over the Black Sea Fleet with Russia, gave his backing for the operation, Interfax said.

Western Georgia has been paralysed for a month by the civil war between Mr. Gam-

sakhurdia followers and troops backing Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a former anti-Communist dissident who was Georgia's first popularly-elected president until being ousted by an armed revolt in January 1992, returned from exile late last month to his stronghold in the western town of Zugdidi.

His armed supporters then took advantage of disarray within government forces following their defeat in fighting against ethnic separatists in the neighbouring region of Abkhazia to launch an offensive aimed at toppling Mr. Shevardnadze.

Russian troops have already been deployed along the main rail lines between Poti and Tbilisi, and Armenia — which is dependent on the Black Sea ports for supplies — is to join the ground operation.

U.S. rejects new Haiti elections

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Monday rejected a call for new elections to end Haiti's political crisis but suggested ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide might broaden his cabinet to widen his political support.

Although U.S. officials publicly said a total blockade of Haiti was an option if military refusals to cede power to Mr. Aristide, they privately expressed fears that such a move might prompt a new exodus of refugees to the United States.

So calls went out over the weekend to a number of countries, including France, Britain, Switzerland and the Dominican Republic, urging them to follow the U.S. lead in freezing the assets and revoking the visas of the 40 or so principal figures in the resistance to Mr. Aristide's return to power, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday edition.

"We want the people running the show to suffer, not those who live at the bottom of the heap already," the newspaper, quoted a State Department planner as saying.

A group of small Haitian political parties with strong ties to Haiti's military rulers Sunday called for an interim government and new presidential elections to end the Caribbean nation's two-year-old crisis.

"All those proposals to us at the moment represent something other than the process which we believe and which the international community believes offers the best prospect for the restoration of democracy, and that's the step-by-step, fairly meticulously drawn process that was negotiated at Governors Island (in New York)" last July, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Under the accord, Mr. Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup, was to return to power in Haiti last weekend.

Meanwhile, hoping to salvage its plans for restoring democracy, the United Nations plans to convene new talks Wednesday, but Haiti's power broker — the army — isn't listening.

The military backed out of the deal that would have allowed Mr. Aristide to return to power last Saturday. Army Commander Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras even suggested the U.N.-brokered accord he co-signed was dead unless both he and Mr. Aristide decided otherwise.

The United Nations insists the accord is applicable, and wants to hold new talks with an Aristide representative, Gen. Cedras and the presidents of Haiti's two houses of parliament beginning Wednesday.

A U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Monday the military was the only party not to accept the U.N. invitation.

Accused killers of U.K. toddler were 'fluent liars'

PRESTON, England (AP) — Two 11-year-old boys charged with murdering a toddler had a "fluent capacity to tell lies" and tried to blame each other when confronted with their crime, the prosecutor told the court Tuesday.

Richard Henriques said the accused boys first told police they knew nothing about the case of 2-year-old James Bulger who was abducted and murdered in February.

But the police tapes of interviews with the two boys "demonstrate the progression from total ignorance of James Bulger and events surrounding his death, to partial knowledge, through to each of them placing as much of the blame as possible on the co-accused," Mr. Henriques told the court on the second day of the trial.

On Monday, as the two boys heard Mr. Henriques describe the brutal murder of James Bulger one boy remained calm

and impassive while the other was nervous and cried.

The two chubby, dark-haired boys are seated next to social workers on a specially raised dais so they can see the courtroom proceedings over a brass bar in front of them.

The boys, who were 10 at the time, are charged with abducting and murdering James Bulger when the slipped away from his mother in a busy shopping mall in Liverpool on Feb. 12. They have pleaded innocent.

Mr. Henriques told the nine men and three women on the jury they would hear the police tapes.

"What they (the tapes) demonstrate, in the prosecution's submission on the part of both defendants, is a fluent capacity to tell lies," Mr. Henriques said.

The crime provoked anger and dismay around the country. Crowds threw stones and eggs at police vans carrying the boys to their first court appearance, in February. The trial was moved to Preston, 30 miles (50 km) north of Liverpool.

Mr. Henriques said Monday the two boys skipped school on Feb. 12, and spent the day at the shopping mall. They annoyed shopkeepers with their antics, picked on an elderly woman and begged a bank manager for change.

They tried to abduct another 2-year-old boy earlier the same day, but his mother saw one of the defendants beckoning her son and retrieved him, the prosecutor said. The boys have pleaded innocent to attempted abduction.

They snatched James while his mother was fleetingly distracted, and carried and tugged the toddler 2½ miles (4 km) — "a very long and distressing

Major to meet N. Ireland leaders

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major will meet Northern Ireland's Protestant and Roman Catholic political leaders to try to halt a wave of sectarian killings and relaunch peace talks, government officials said Tuesday.

Face-to-face talks requested for some time by John Hume, leader of the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, will probably take place Thursday, they added.

Northern Ireland's Catholic and Protestant gangs have killed 24 people in nine days of sectarian violence.

Mr. Hume has drafted secret peace proposals with Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

Mr. Hume complained in parliament Monday that Mr. Major had rejected the proposals without talking to him about them.

British officials said Mr. Major's office was also in touch with James Molyneux, the leader of the official Ulster Unionist Party, to arrange a meeting.

Molyneux, whose party is committed to keeping Northern Ireland part of Britain, has not yet commented publicly on a peace initiative launched last Friday by Mr. Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds in Brussels. His reaction will be crucial to the prospects of resuming talks.

Mr. Major also spoke briefly Monday with the Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, and the two men expressed a desire to set up a longer meeting in the next few days, the officials said.

Mr. Major told parliament Monday after a particularly murderous week in the British province that he would intensify efforts to restart talks between the four main Northern Ireland parties that broke down a year ago.

"The prime minister is very keen that we should try to do all we can to move this thing along," an official said.

He said there was no question for now of calling a joint meeting. Talks involving the four major parties in the province collapsed a year ago.

Meanwhile the Greysteel community in northern Ulster prepared Tuesday to bury the victims of a machinegun massacre.

The killings marked an end of innocence for this tiny windswept village that until last weekend had somehow managed to avoid the "troubles" that have struck close by, and torn Britain's northern province with an endless cycle of violence.

Many of the 1,000 residents here were still in uncomprehending shock at the choice of the latest target by the Protestant paramilitary group that launched the attack, the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) — a pub where both Catholics and Protestants were celebrating Halloween Saturday night.

Although 75 per cent Catholic, Greysteel eschews Ulster's sectarian politics of violence, and grief was compounded by bewilderment after the two UFF gunmen walked into the pub, shouted "trick or treat," and opened fire on anything that moved.

Seven people were killed, 11 wounded.

One of the dead was a Protestant.

"Greysteel has avoided politics," said Father John Gallagher, Catholic priest here for 15 years who was preparing to conduct a joint service for five of the victims.

Identical twin teenagers run for village council

BREMEN, Ohio (AP) — Identical twin teenagers are in the running for the village council. An opponent said that means double trouble for their central Ohio town. Jan and Ann Hartman, 19, said they decided separately to run as write-in-candidates in the village of 1,400 residents. With only five candidates and four open seats, one surely will be elected. "We want to see what politics are like, and since this is our first time, we figured we'd start small," Ann Hartman said. "You've got to start somewhere, and we see Bremen as a nice, friendly town."

Only three names — Deborah Berry, Patricia Johnston and incumbent Donald Spangler — are on Tuesday's ballot for the council seats. The twins' age and inexperience worry Mrs. Berry, a 30-year-old housewife who said the twins are getting too much attention. "It doesn't matter that they're twins. It's just a novelty that everyone thinks is cute," she said.

"They're very young and content with Bremen the way it is, and that's what worries me." Both are sophomores at the Lancaster Campus of Ohio University and plan to commute to the Athens Campus from this village about 35 miles (50 kilometres) southeast of Columbus. Jan is majoring in political science; Ann is an accounting major.

Delay sought in Jackson child molestation case

LOS ANGELES (R) — Lawyers for Michael Jackson have sought a delay in a civil case in which a 13-year-old boy accused the pop superstar of sexually molesting him. In court papers, Jackson's attorney requested the case be postponed until the statute of limitations of any possible criminal prosecution had run out. That could effectively delay the case for six years, or until the Los Angeles District Attorney's office decided to press charges in the matter. District Attorney spokeswoman Sandy Gibbons said the criminal investigation into the allegations was continuing, and that no decision had yet been made on whether or not to prosecute Jackson. Jackson is currently out of the country on a year-long "dangerous" tour, to promote the album of the same name. He performed in Mexico City over the weekend. A Jackson spokesman, private investigator Anthony Pellicano, said Monday that while the request might appear to be unusual, "it's just the right that every defendant has."

Bangkok taxis have new scam to boost fares

BANGKOK (AFP) — Bangkok taxi drivers have figured out a new scam to inflate their fares, the Nation newspaper reported Tuesday. It seems the taxi drivers, having had their metres calibrated with the proper size tyres on their vehicles, then drive around the corner and have smaller size tyres put on the cars, the English-language daily said. The smaller tyres have to make more revolutions to go the same distance as the bigger tyres, which means the taxi's metre runs up a higher fare over the same distance. "The department has received many complaints about these deceitful taxi drivers," Prachot Kraimert, an official with the Department of Land Transport told the Nation. Mr. Prachot said his department is investigating the complaints, while the Nation warned commuters to "look at the tyres before getting in" a taxi.

No sex please, we're British

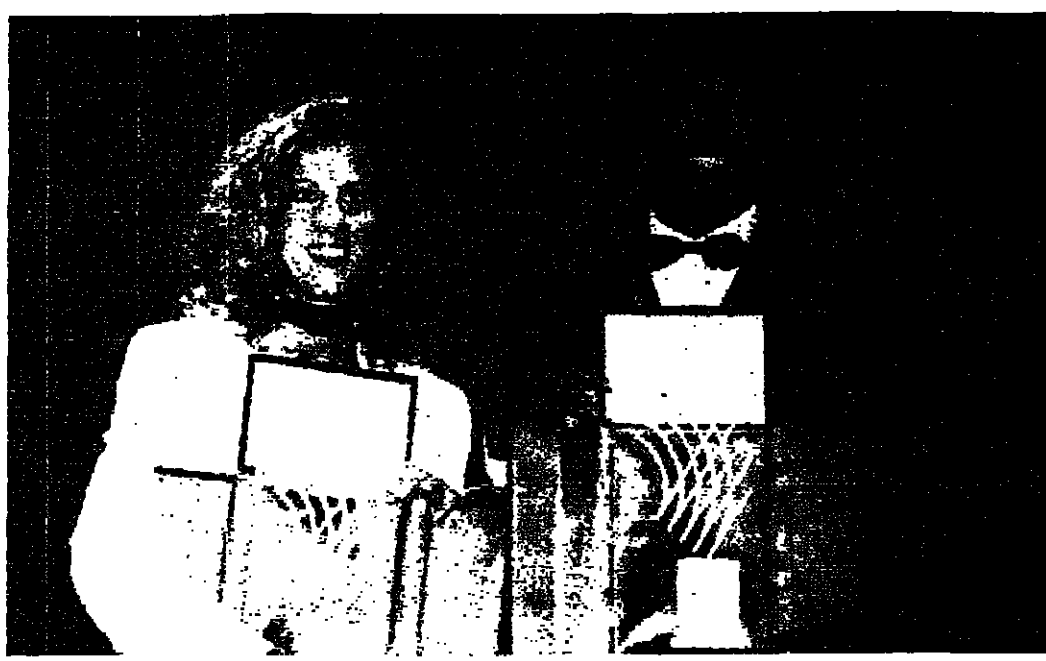
LONDON (R) — The British government warned foreign satellite broadcasters to refrain from beaming pornographic television into Britain following reports of plans for a satellite channel for transvestites. "My actions against the pornographic television channel Red Hot Television earlier this year should be sufficient warning to anyone who considers overstepping those limits," Peter Brooke, minister for cultural issues, said. Decoders for the Red Hot Dutch channel were banned by the government. Reports say a new satellite channel for transvestites, featuring live sex shows from Thailand, is being planned.

Jackson, Gunnell named Athletes of the Year

LONDON (R) — British hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were named as International Athletes of the Year by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Jackson broke the world 110 metres hurdles record at the Stuttgart World Championships in August while Gunnell slashed the world 400 metres hurdles mark at the same meeting.

Nouredine Morceli, who won his second consecutive world 1,500 title as well as breaking the world mile record, finished second in the men's poll ahead of Britain's world 100 metres champion



British athletes Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell Monday show their International Amateur Athletic Federation trophies for the top athletes of the year (AFP photo)

Linford Christie. Gunnell headed China's world 3,000 metres and 10,000 metres record holder Wang Junxia, who won the World Cup marathon in San Sebast-

na, Spain, Sunday. American Gail Devers, who won both the 100 metres and 100 metres hurdles titles in Stuttgart, finished third. The standings follow a poll of

1,500 people including IAAF members, media representatives, organisers and sponsors. The awards were presented Monday night at the IAAF's annual World Athletics Gala.

Vintage Crop wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Irish galloper Vintage Crop, with 1993 English derby winning jockey Michael Kinane aboard, created history Tuesday by becoming the first horse trained in Europe to win Australia's \$1.3 million Melbourne Cup.

In a powerful burst on a rain-soaked track, the 14-1 Vintage Crop raced home three lengths clear of New Zealand's Te Akau Nick, a 160-1 outsider. Third was another long-shot from New Zealand, Mercator, at 120-1.

Favourite Al Pompeti, from New Zealand, at 5-1 finished 14th in the 3,200 metre race on which around \$45 million was wagered at government run betting shops around the country.

"It's a great day for the Irish," said Vintage Crop's trainer Dermot Weld. "I have dreamt about winning this race for a number of years but I never thought I could achieve it."

"When I was young I read Banjo Paterson (Australian writer of The Man From Snowy River) and Australia was always in my heart," Weld said in accepting the winner's trophy.

The victory earned Irish owner Dr. M.W. Smurfit \$850,000.

In accepting the trophy, Tony Smurfit said Vintage Crop's win had elevated the race to a truly international status.

"This is very much like a dream for us to win such a prestigious and valuable race and a race that means so much to Australia and now ... the world," Smurfit said.

This will become a race that every single decent stayer in Europe will want to come down and contest and try and emulate what we have done."

Smurfit said the Melbourne Cup would become an even harder race to win in the future as increased competition from the northern hemisphere follows Vintage Crop's success.

Kinane said he was confident of winning the race once he pulled Vintage Crop wide of the field in the final straight.

Kinane, who rides half the year in Ireland and Europe and the rest of the time in Hong Kong, positioned the seven-

year-old gelding in the first half of the crowded 24-horse field for most of the race.

Riding shoulder to shoulder with the other European challenger, English stayer Drum Taps, Kinane pulled wide with 200 metres to go to the finishing post.

"Once I got in front I knew I could win," said Kinane after his first ride at the Flemington Racecourse.

"This rally is an international event," he added. Weld said he was pleased with Kinane's ride, especially because of the wet track and with Vintage Crop's performance as he had dropped a lot of weight in travelling to Australia.

"I was quietly confident. When the two inches of rain fell last night, I was concerned," Weld said. "The horse did lose seven kilos in travelling out here. But he did put it back on and on Sunday morning when he trained, I was pleased with him. Drum Taps finished ninth."

Breeders' Cup picks

Meanwhile, in Arcadia, California, trainers left out of next Saturday's Breeders' Cup horse races are doing some mild grumbling about the selection committee's choices.

In every over-subscribed Breeders' Cup race, the top points earners are automatic starters and the remaining six starters are selected by the committee.

Thus, in the always-congested \$1 million sprint, the committee had to make some hard choices in selecting Gilded Time, Thirty Sews, Gold Spring, Catrail, Sayyeda and Surprise Offer.

Gilded Time, the 1992 juvenile champion, looked impressive winning his last race — but that was more than a year ago.

The committee also gave last year's sprint champion, Thirty Sews, a starting spot despite the fact that the 7-year-old is winless in three starts this year.

Perhaps the toughest call was the selection of Surprise Offer, a 3-year-old British runner, over 5-year-old French warhorse Monde Bleu, who is owned by Daniel Wildenstein.

Thomson and 13 members of

Monde Bleu is the first alternate and would draw in should any of the 14 drop out.

"Obviously the committee thought the English horses were stronger than the French horses," Alec Wildenstein, who oversees his father's stable, said Sunday.

"It's disappointing, but you can't do anything about it. We've been coming to the Breeders' Cup since the first one, and we accept their decision."

Monde Bleu has run in the money four times in five starts this year, while Surprise Offer hit the board in four of seven starts. In their only meeting this year, Surprise Offer defeated Monde Bleu by a head.

Surprise Offer went off that day at 28-1 and Monde Bleu at 1-2.

"It would have been nice to get an invitation, because we feel our horse deserves it," said Monde Bleu's trainer, Andre Fabre, who will saddle at least three starters in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup turf.

"It's obvious that Gilded Time's and Thirty Sews' status as defending Breeders' Cup champions helped their cases."

With 25 horses pre-entered for a race in which there are only 14 starters, it was inevitable that someone would cry foul.

American trainer Bruce Jackson, whose pre-entered sprinter Superstrike was not selected, questioned the committee's choice of both Gilded Time and Thirty Sews.

"It shouldn't be based on whether they have a chance to win, it should be based on whether they earned their way in," Jackson said. "Now, with Gilded Time in, it's a media-hyped race."

Gilded Time, who is owned by television producer David Milch, suffered a minor foot injury in a workout late last year, and was given several months off to recuperate. He was put back into training in August.

"He has the back class to win it, that's for sure," said the colt's trainer, Darrell Vienna. "He's a bigger, stronger guy than he was last year. I'm just hoping he can hold his own with these other bad boys."

Thirty Sews sizzled six furlongs last week in 1:11 during morning workouts. The Big Grey gelding blazed three furlongs in :34 and five furlongs in 57.45.

"Awesome" shouted his trainer, Bob Baffert. "That's exactly how he worked before last year's sprint."

Australians confident of causing Argentine upset

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia has grown in confidence and believes it can defeat two-time finalist Argentina in the teams' second-leg World Cup soccer qualifying match, Australian coach Eddie Thomson said Tuesday.

Australia and Argentina played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg game in Sydney Sunday night. The second game will be played on Nov. 17 in Buenos Aires, with the winner on aggregate advancing to the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

"You are always a bit worried Argentina can give you a bit of a spanking and could run away with the game, but having played against them I'm certainly more confident for the second game than I was before the first," said Thomson.

Thomson said he planned to make only one change to the team, with striker Frank Farina returning after suspension, probably at the expense of defender.

"I can leave a fullback out and play an extra midfielder," the Scottish-born coach said. "We've got a lot of options because Robbie Slater and Farina can play two or three positions and Jason Van Blerk can play a couple of positions."

Thomson said he definitely would retain all three central defenders for the second leg game at the River Plate Stadium.

his squad left Tuesday for Chile, where they will be based until three days before the game in Buenos Aires.

European-based members of the Australian squad will link up with their teammates the week before the match.

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German village appeals to U.S. luge team not to pull out of meet

BONN (AP) — An east German village where neo-Nazi skinheads beat up an American luge racer appealed to the U.S. luge team not to pull out of a World Cup meet in January.

"There could be nothing worse for us than a boycott," said Hartmut Goebel, mayor of Oberhof, the winter sports capital of former East Germany.

Oberhof has not been spared the economic troubles afflicting all of eastern Germany, and Mr. Goebel worries that tourists could be frightened off en masse if the Americans boycott his village.

The Friday night beating of Duncan Kennedy at an Oberhof bar by about 15 youths shocked American athletes and embarrassed German officials.

Neo-Nazis also taunted Kennedy's black teammate, Robert Pipkins, by making monkey noises and shouting "nigger out."

It was the first serious skinhead attack against Americans since attacks began three years ago after Germany's unification.

Oberhof's village council Monday ordered the bar, called the Kurparkklaus, to close because it had become a haunt for neo-Nazis. It was not clear whether the bar has been permanently shut down.

Mr. Goebel also said he was launching a campaign to drive the neo-Nazis out of Oberhof and would forbid them from entering town nightspots.

The neo-Nazi outrage was front-page news in most of Germany's major newspapers and an issue for editorial writers to worry about.

The Berliner Zeitung called it a "shameful act" that is "disastrous for Germany's image in the USA."

One politician said the attack proves that current laws aren't tough enough to deter violent neo-Nazis, who have carried out more than 1,500 attacks this year.

Erwin Marschewski, in an interview with the Berliner Zeitung, called for a law that would let police use preventive detention to discourage radicals from carrying out attacks.

"This regrettable incident shows that our legal system is in urgent need of renovation," said Marschewski, law-and-order specialist for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party, the Christian Democratic Union.

Five suspects were detained after Kennedy identified three of them.

Four were later freed. Heiner Juergen Nebel, chief prosecutor in the case, said there was insufficient evidence to hold them but they still might be charged.

"I am really distressed that the prosecutor's office let them go," Mr. Goebel said in a telephone interview from Oberhof.

Mr. Goebel said the fanatics who beat up Kennedy were known right-wing radicals from the nearby city of Suhl. "Our youths have never stirred up trouble like this," he said.

Mr. Goebel said his village has no police force, but a police officer from nearby Suhl would now be permanently stationed in Oberhof.

Officials of the U.S. Luge Association said Sunday they may have to pull out of a Jan. 14-16 World Cup meet slated in Oberhof if its athletes don't feel safe there.

Mr. Goebel appealed to the association not to give up on his town of 2,500, nestled in the southwest corner of former east Germany, about 240 kilometres from Berlin.

"I can guarantee that this kind of thing will not happen again," said Mr. Goebel.

The U.S. luge team had come to train at Oberhof, a favourite of international bobsled and luge competitors.

Leroy T. Walker, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said Sunday the committee should pay more attention to the places it sends people, not just to the tracks and courts.

"We look at the training facilities, but people don't spend all their time training," he said. "People go out in the towns, and maybe this is something we don't do enough of."

Lendl blown off course at Paris Open

PARIS (APF) — Ivan Lendl, the oldest player at the \$2.16 million Paris Open, failed to survive the first round Tuesday.

The 33-year-old Czech-born American was bundled out of the world's richest non-Grand Slam event by big-hitting compatriot David Wheaton who romped to a 6-3, 7-5 win.

The 6ft 4in, 24-year-old who had to play in the qualifying tournament to enter the main draw, needed just 70 minutes to end the former world number-one's hopes.

Wheaton, ranked 47, reached the third round here last year. He now faces world number one Pete Sampras.

Lendl, who desperately wanted a good run in the French capital to improve his current 19th world ranking as he bids to earn a seed's berth for next year's Australian Open, was badly let down by his service.

He hit five double-faults and managed to put only half his first serves in court.

The players walked on, protested that the court was too dirty to play on, and walked off again.

It had been used for practice right up until the match was due on and nobody had been told to clean it.

The maintenance staff eventually appeared and swept it clean while the ball boys lent a hand removing servers' sawdust from the baseline.

On the number-one court, 28-year-old Australian left-hander Mark Woodforde finally beat Byron Black of Zimbabwe.

Black, a qualifier and currently ranked 83rd, had beaten Woodforde in both of their previous encounters.

The experienced Woodforde, better known as a doubles player but who has risen to his highest-ever singles ranking of 25, won 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. He now plays 16th-seeded David Camp in the third round.

On Monday, Henri Leconte, in yet another comeback attempt, rallied to beat fellow Frenchman Thierry Champion, 6-7 (7-9), 7-5, 6-1 in the first round of the Paris Open.

Leconte was two points from losing when won nine of the last 10 games to get past Champion. "It was catastrophic. I was making all the errors. I was really tense," Leconte said. "Then I got loose in the third set."

Wimbledon and U.S. Open winner Pete Sampras and Australian open champion Jim Courier are the top two seeds. Boris Becker is third-seeded and Michael Stich fourth.

European civil engineer has 16 years experience, with international consultant in the Middle East, in the management, international operations and construction supervision. Seeks employment with regional foreign consultant.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q842 ♣AQ ♣KQ54 ♠A106
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A104 ♣A7682 ♠7 ♠K97
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q72 ♣Q5 ♠A83 ♠J10982
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q1094 ♣K983 ♠72 ♠AJS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠95 ♣A83 ♠KJ98 ♠AJ107
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A83 ♣Q5 ♠KJ98 ♠AJ107
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q1094 ♣K983 ♠72 ♠AJS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q1094 ♣K983 ♠72 ♠AJS
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q1094 ♣K983 ♠72 ♠AJS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

T
O
D
A
Y

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CONCORD

CONCORD '1'

Emilio Steven... in

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD '2'

Tom Cruise — in

A FEW GOOD MEN

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238

PLAZA

Eric Roberts — in

Best of the Best II

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Cinema Tel.: 675371

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مكتبة من الأدب</

Algeria says 28 killed after confusing kidnap episode

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have killed 28 Muslim fundamentalists in the past 72 hours, official sources said on Tuesday.

In the mountainous Djebel Bouzegza area, near the coastal town of Boumerdes east of Algiers, on Sunday night and Monday morning, 17 were shot dead, security sources said.

They were trapped after local citizens tipped off the security forces, they added.

"Among the terrorists killed, two were identified as Djamel Bougourzi, wanted under three arrest warrants ... for killing, theft and arson, and Ali Guenouna, also the subject of an arrest warrant," the official news agency APS said.

Algeria uses the term "terrorist" for Muslim fundamentalists fighting the security forces. More than 1,500 people have been killed in political violence in less than two years.

Another four activists hiding in a grotto in Salah Bey near the western city of Constantine were killed at the weekend, the

sources said. Automatic pistols, a shotgun, and crude bombs were recovered from the bodies.

Security forces killed three more in the same area on Sunday night.

In Bouira, 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers, security forces shot dead two more on Monday after a chase in which a policeman was wounded.

Another man was killed in Blida province, south of the capital, at 6.30 a.m. on Monday and a sawn-off shotgun retrieved from his body.

Meanwhile, an Algerian interior ministry communiqué, giving the first official version of the release of three French hostages at the weekend, said four kidnappers were killed but gave few details of the circumstances.

In a statement appearing in the Algerian press Tuesday, the ministry did not identify the group which seized the French consular employees nor did it say where the releases took place.

The statement said nine kid-

nappers were involved, but they were designated as "kidnappers" and "criminals" rather than "terrorists."

The ministry said four of the nine were still being sought. Two, identified as Ahmad Mourad, 29, and Djabri Rachid, 28, have been sentenced to death in absentia by a special court for "terrorism" and "subversion" while two others, Guezmir Mohammad, 24, and Berafta Aissa, 34, were being sought for "various killings."

One of the group was known by his nom de guerre, Djaafar Al Afghani, an indication he had fought with Islamic volunteers in the war in Afghanistan, according to the ministry.

The ministry said that following their kidnapping on Sunday, Oct. 24, the three French were taken together to the same village, Oued Slama, some 20 kilometres south of Algiers, where they were held in a villa surrounded by a wall. But it gave no details about a second detention area.



REALITY OF PRESENCE: Israeli soldiers check the ID of a Palestinian youth in Gaza City Tuesday. The Palestinian delegation in Tabá interrupted autonomy negotiations with Israel demanding a "general military withdrawal" from the Gaza Strip and not just a redeployment. PLO delegates accused Israel of wanting to carve up the strip into a "series of islands" (AFP photo).

Jordan, Israel negotiating banking in occupied lands

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Israeli officials are meeting in Washington to discuss an agreement on the modalities of Jordanian supervision of the monetary affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year interim autonomy period.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michael Marto is heading the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israeli counterparts.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, in a regular press briefing on Monday, described the talks as technical discussions on the issue of how Jordanian banks might operate in the occupied territories.

Officials and diplomats here said the talks covered an overall framework for not only commercial banks but also for other monetary operations such as exchange houses and currency regulations.

The officials and diplomats expected this round of negotiations to produce an agreement under which the CBJ will assume a supervisory and controlling capacity over commercial banks and exchange houses in the occupied territories.

They noted that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on autonomy signed on Sept. 13 went into effect on Oct. 13 and Israel is scheduled to begin a limited withdrawal

from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13.

"There is a sense of urgency on both sides," said a diplomatic source. "Palestinians have to see the fruits of the peace agreement on the ground as soon as possible. This is one of the keys to the success of the autonomy accord."

One of the stumbling blocks in a Jordanian-Israeli agreement on reopening Jordanian banks which closed their operations in the occupied territories in 1967 was an Israeli quest to impose a limit on transfers from the West Bank to the East Bank through the banks, according to reports in the Western media.

The reports said another hurdle was an Israeli stipulation that a part of the deposits in the commercial banks to be reopened in the occupied territories be deposited in dollars with the Israeli central bank.

A well-informed source brushed aside these reports. "There is a host of other issues that need to be clarified," the source told the Jordan Times. The source declined to elaborate.

Israeli officials have also been keeping a tight veil of secrecy over the conditions that they would like to impose on banking in the occupied territories.

The Jordanian position in the negotiations in Washington stems from a broad framework for economic cooperation agreed with the

Palestinians. This included CBJ supervision and control of commercial banks and exchange houses and continued use of the Jordanian dinar as the dominant currency in the occupied territories.

Dr. Fahed Faneek, a noted Jordanian economist and columnist, wrote in the Arabic-language Al Rai daily this week that the Palestinians had withdrawn request that they be represented in the board of directors of the CBJ during the meetings last week of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation.

According to Dr. Faneek, the shift in stand came after the Jordanian government made it clear that the very nature of the CBJ and the statute of the Central Bank do not permit such representation. While the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan is appointed, the rest of the board represents the Jordanian private sector.

Dr. Faneek, stressing that the information available to him was not official and incomplete in view of the secrecy that surrounded the talks, also reported that the Palestinians wanted to issue bonds in Jordanian dinars and set up a stock market as well as a Palestinian development bank.

Highly-placed officials declined to confirm or deny the reports. "It is premature to discuss the details," said a senior official. "There will be a formal announcement as and when things are finalised."

Jordan to table new proposals on arms

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting of multilateral working group on Middle East arms control and regional security which starts in Moscow today.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be headed by Abdullah Touqan, His Majesty King Hussein's scientific advisor.

In a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Rai, Dr. Touqan said Jordan would present to the meeting new proposals aimed at preempting conflicts in the region, ensuring a safe future for people in the Middle East and enabling future generations to live in peace and security.

Dr. Touqan said although the cold war and Gulf war had ended, prospects for establishing genuine peace in the region were becoming harder in light of the acceleration of international and regional events and conflict.

This, he said, calls for the creation of a "comprehensive formula for regional security cooperation, which will in turn contribute to ensuring economic, political and psychological security."

The Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks signed September within the framework of the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks is a step towards establishing a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region, he said. "Any threat to the security and stability in the Middle East will shake the very foundations of the peace process and reflect on trade and economic development in the region," Dr. Touqan said. "This in turn will affect the progress towards democratisation and human rights."

Dr. Touqan said the continuous race for the acquisition of arms at the expense of natural resources would lead to economic decline and deprivation, causing a great imbalance.

He noted that military cuts and the resulting savings could correct such imbalances and achieve economic development.

He stressed Jordan's firm position towards removal of arms of massive destruction. "Jordan believes that such an issue should rank high on the agenda," he said.

"Jordan is a strong supporter of turning the Middle East into an area free from weapons of massive destruction," Dr. Touqan said. Jordan seeks to foster dialogue and exchange of information.

COLUMN

Thai king translates spy biography

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej had translated the World War II spy biography "A Man Called Interpid" into Thai. "His Majesty the King spared his free time from 1977 to 1980 to translate this book," Sarmart Reungnarong, senior editor of the Amarin Printing and Publishing Company, which is publishing the book, told reporters. The 648-page Thai version of the book by William Stevenson — "Nai Intra Phooiphonglang Phra" or "Mr. Intra. The Man Who Put The Gold Leaves At The Back Of The Buddha Image" — will be on sale during the king's birthday for the benefit of an educational charity.

Washington children plan own funerals

WASHINGTON (R) — Children in the high-murder neighbourhoods of Washington have started planning their own funerals, the Washington Post reported. "I think my prom dress is going to be the prettiest dress of all," the newspaper quoted 11-year-old Jessica Bradford as saying in a front-page story. "When I die, I want to be dressed for my family," Howard Reed, 15, a ninth-grader who attends a local junior high school, said he wants a funeral "different from everybody else's." And eight grader Alicia Brown, 14, said she prays to make it through each day. "One friend got killed and he was just riding a bike," she said. "I figure the bullet could have hit me. Sometimes I picture my funeral, because when I go to a friend's funeral, I picture myself. Washington Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly recently asked President Bill Clinton to authorise National Guard troops in the high-murder neighbourhoods, acknowledging the police had been unable to slow down the murder rate in the city of 600,000, which runs more than one murder a day. The request was denied.

Wage restraint? Not us, say economic boffins

SEOUL (R) — More than 1,000 research fellows at South Korean state economic think-tanks went on a one-day strike Tuesday, denouncing the government's low-wage policy which they helped to formulate. A spokesman for the umbrella Korean Federation of Professional and Technicians' Unions (KFPTU) said wage negotiators had broken down. "The government is using us as a scapegoat for its tight wage policy. We cannot stand it any longer," said KFPTU spokesman Kim Chul-woon during a rally in central Seoul to highlight their plight. He said wage increases at economic institutes had been limited to less than five per cent a year on average over the past five years, compared with double-digit increases in industry as a whole. The government's economic planning board (EPB) uses the data collected by the think-tanks to set guidelines for wage rises, but the targets are applied more stringently for government employees than for the private sector.

Washington priest found culpable

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — A federal jury in Little Rock Monday ordered a Roman Catholic priest to pay \$1.5 million to a woman he allegedly molested more than decade ago. The Reverend Timothy Sugrue, 58, who is now the business manager of the Marist Order's Washington, D.C. Province and a member of the Provincial Council, was an air force chaplain during the 1970s at Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas. The plaintiff, Kimberly Phillips, 23, was seven years old when the priest allegedly began fondling her. She said Rev. Sugrue had also enticed her to engage in sexual intercourse. "I'm just glad the trial is over," said Ms. Phillips, whose sister, Ann-Marie Phillips, 24, testified that Rev. Sugrue also molested her. At the time of the alleged incidents, the Phillips sisters were military dependents at Eaker. Ms. Phillips and her sister testified that their memories of the molestation emerged only following psychotherapy they sought for personal problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat confers with Hassan II

RABAT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat conferred during the night with King Hassan of Morocco, whom he has asked to help obtain the release of 336 million in Palestinian assets frozen by Gulf states during the Gulf war. Mr. Arafat's talks with the king were attended by PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo and Hani Al Hassan of Fatah's Central Committee, the official news agency MAP reported. The agency gave no details of the talks, but on his arrival in Rabat on Monday Mr. Arafat said he would consult the king about implementing the peace accord signed with Israel in September and the results of related talks in Cairo and Tabá. Mr. Arafat left later to return to Tunis.

Pullout cost \$170m — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army pullout from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho will cost \$170 million, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Tuesday. Much of the cost will go towards providing new security measures for the Jewish settlements that remain in the areas gaining Palestinian autonomy, Mr. Rabin said in Bithan, the defence ministry's monthly newsletter. "New roads will also be built in numerous areas, to bypass Palestinian built-up areas," added Mr. Rabin, who is also Israel's defence minister. "In the longer term we will also move the army command centres from towns on the West Bank," he said in the newsletter.

Yemeni plane crashes

ADEN (AFP) — A Soviet-made Sukhoi bomber of the Yemeni air force crashed on a training flight Tuesday but its pilot ejected and escaped with minor injuries, witnesses said. The plane exploded as it hit the ground at Al Hiswa, 13 kilometres from the southern port city of Aden, they said. The pilot was named as Squadron Leader Qayis Hassan Ali. Two Yemeni pilots were killed in August when their Soviet-made MiG-21 fighters crashed into the Red sea.

Court links Iran to killing

PARIS (R) — A French magistrate has linked Iran's secret service to the 1991 murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and his secretary near Paris, justice sources said on Tuesday. Jean-Louis Brugiere, France's foremost "anti-terrorism" magistrate, established the ties in an inquiry whose results he presented on Tuesday to the state prosecutor's office, the sources told reporters. The prosecutor will use the report to prepare for a trial of three men held in French jails in connection with the killings. A woman who was also charged in the case but released on bail is also to stand trial. No date has been set for the trial.

Iraqi paper attacks Charles

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper Tuesday described Britain's Prince Charles as a "notorious playboy" well known in "whorehouses throughout Europe." The article in the daily Babel heaped scorn on comments by the heir to the British throne last Wednesday in which he attacked President Saddam Hussein for "unmentionable horrors" against the people of southern Iraq. Babel accused the prince of "lies and tear-shedding over virtuous values, sublime morals and human rights," according to excerpts of the article carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency. The newspaper expressed "surprise and consternation that a notorious playboy well known in the cellars of the night and in whorehouses throughout Europe should suddenly become a preacher of sublime values. Picture Charles... shedding tears for the Iraqis while he himself is sinking deep in adultery and family intrigues and while the British papers are publishing a long and endless series of scandals connected with Charles' dissolute life," wrote the newspaper.

Police deport HIV Italian

CAIRO (AP) — Police took an Italian citizen to Cairo's airport at gunpoint and deported him Tuesday because he reportedly tested positive for AIDS, news reports and Italian embassy officials said. Under a law passed three years ago, foreigners applying for work permits in Egypt must be tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Those who test positive are immediately deported. The state-owned Middle East News Agency said Marco Maria Caletti, an engineer for a chemical factory in the Red Sea port of Suez, was deported because a test "showed he had AIDS for a number of years."

Refugees dropped in Baltic

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two dozen refugees, claiming to be Iraqi Kurds, said they were dumped in the Baltic Sea at night and rowed six hours in rubber boats to reach a desolate Swedish island on Tuesday. The smugglers' ship left Estonia early Monday evening, the refugees told National Park Warden Torsten Jonsson. He was having coffee with colleagues on the island reserve of Gotska Sandon when the families rowed ashore. He said several spoke English well. "The refugees were dropped off from a bigger ship at 4 a.m. (0300 GMT)," said Police Superintendent Karl-Anders Waldman. He said they then rowed in darkness in rubber rafts until they reached the National Park Island, about an hour north of the main island of Gotland. The smugglers' vessel was in international waters and Swedish authorities had no jurisdiction to board it, said Mr. Waldman.

Doctor says he cannot substantiate torture allegations

AMMAN (AP) — A government doctor testified in court Tuesday he could not substantiate defence allegations that some of the accused in an alleged assassination plot against King Hussein were tortured.

The doctor, described as a forensic expert in the records of the State Security Court, was testifying in the eight-week-old trial, where 10 people are charged with plotting to kill the monarch, rewrite the Constitution and seize power through "violent means."

Eight of the accused are in detention and two are being tried in absentia also for affiliation to an illegal group, Hezb Al Tahrir, or Islamic Liberation Party.

The defendants have retracted confessions given during pre-trial investigations saying the statements were extracted under torture.

They told the court last month that they were beaten and humiliated during a two-month detention at the intelligence department.

Defence witnesses have told the three-man military tribunal that they had seen signs of torture on the bodies of some of the accused when they were allowed to visit them two months after the arrests.

The names of the witnesses and defendants were withheld upon orders from the court.

The hearings resumed after a controversial absence of several defence lawyers at a session on Sunday prompted the presiding judge, Colonel Hafez Amin, to warn that he would unilaterally appoint state attorneys if the counsels did not attend sessions.

All the seven defence lawyers were present in court Tuesday, but none of them offered any explanation for the

absence on Sunday.

The doctor told the four-hour hearing Tuesday that he and two other medical examiners had checked four of the defendants and found them in "normal health conditions."

"I cannot say they were tortured," he said.

Five of the accused were cadets at Muta University, a military-civilian college in south Jordan, and another is an ex-student, who is accused to acting on behalf of Hezb Al Tahrir to recruit the cadets to carry out the plot.

The prosecution said the students were to open fire on the King while inspecting a guard of honour during a June 26 graduation ceremony.

The defendants were arrested in April after an informant tipped off the authorities to the alleged plot, according to prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi, an army major.

The other defendants, including the two fugitives, are described as leading members of Hezb Al Tahrir, which does not recognise any of the existing Arab regimes and advocates the establishment of a caliphate-style state.

Prosecution witnesses have testified that the cadets were devout Muslims who resented the pro-Western policies of the government and admirers of Khaled Al Islambouly, who killed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a Cairo military parade in 1981.

Prosecution evidence includes leaflets and books containing the Hezb-Al Tahrir ideology as well as the informants' testimony that the cadets were discussing the alleged plot.

The court adjourned until Wednesday, when the defence continues its case.

Oakley in secret talks to end Somali strife

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Diplomacy was the order of the day Tuesday as U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley tried to carve a path through the wilds of Somali politics.

Mr. Oakley was dispatched by President Bill Clinton, who recently decided to pursue negotiation rather than a military solution to Somalia's clan warfare.

His mission has been made all the more urgent by widespread speculation that Somali factions are rearming, possibly for all-out civil war, in advance of a scheduled American pull-out by March 31.

The U.S. envoy was keeping a low profile Tuesday but reportedly met with five top aides to General Mohammed Farah Aidede, whose faction controls southern Mogadishu. Mr. Oakley also was to hear from a wide range of U.N.

officials, military officers, aid workers and representatives of Somalia's 14 other factions. He plans to visit East African countries in hopes of finding an "African solution" to Somalia's political conflict (see page 2).

A senior U.N. military official who spoke with Mr. Oakley on Tuesday said the envoy was talking with as many people as possible in an attempt to depersonalise the international mission in Somalia.

A Somali man, meanwhile, was reported shot Tuesday during one of four attempts to break into U.S. compounds in Mogadishu. U.S. military spokesman Colonel Steve Rausch said the man was wounded after he and another Somali ignored warning shots inside the base. The man was listed in stable condition.

Witness testifies suspect rented New York blast van

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A truck rental company representative on Monday identified a defendant in the World Trade Centre bombing trial as the last person to rent the van that allegedly carried the explosives.

The testimony by Clark H. Anderson of Ryder System Incorporated marked the first time in more than a month of testimony by 60 witnesses that anyone had mentioned by name one of the four men charged in the Feb. 26 bombing.

Mr. Anderson read from documents relating to a yellow van that was found in the wreckage left by the blast, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

"Can you tell us sir, who the last customer to have rented that van was?" asked federal prosecutor Henry Depippo in federal court in Manhattan.

"The customer's name is Mohammad Salameh," Mr. Anderson said, referring to the 26-year-old defendant who began animated conversations with his lawyer after his name was mentioned.

Mr. Anderson said Mr. Salameh rented the yellow van on Feb. 23 for "personal use," but one ryder document showed it to be rented on Feb. 26. That document was a mistake, probably the result of a "key punch error," Mr. Anderson said.

He said Mr. Salameh paid \$241.68 to use the vehicle until March 3. He rented it from a Ryder representative in Jersey City, New Jersey.

He said the van was marked out of service on March 1, but it was not specified on the documents whether it was because it had broken down or was reported missing or stolen.

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